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NOTES,
GEOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL,
RELATING TO THE
TOWN OF BROOKLYN,

ON
LONG-ISLAND,

BY

Gabriel Furman

WITH NOTES, AND A MEMOIR OF THE AUTHOR.

BROOKLYN:

REPRINTED FOR THE FAUST CLUB.

1865.

A. 5864



EDITION: One hundred and twenty copies, of which twenty
are on large paper.

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PREFATORY NOTE.

CONSIDERING the period at which they were written, Furman's "Notes on Brooklyn" possess extraordinary merit as a local history. Clear in their style—accurate, in the main, as to facts, there is, within these modest duodecimo pages, more of the *condensed* results of thoughtful research and careful analysis, than is apparent to one who has not made the history of Brooklyn a particular study. Yet, in presenting to the public a new edition of the "Notes," the "Faust Club" have been mainly influenced by a desire to rescue from fast gathering oblivion the memory of the first, and, up to this time, the ablest historian of Brooklyn. For, though but ten years have elapsed since his death, yet owing to the peculiar reticence of his character, and his solitary manner of life, he seems to have become, even in the minds of those who best knew him, almost forgotten.

It is, then, in the light of a testimonial to the memory of our foremost scholar and antiquarian, that we would have this reprint regarded. The work as here reproduced, is an almost perfect *fac-simile*, from the press of the oldest printing office in Brooklyn, where the original

edition was printed more than forty years ago. The accompanying MEMOIR is from the pen of one who was almost the only person who could claim Judge Furman's intimacy during his life, and the NOTES are mainly devoted to the illustration of obscure points, or the correction of errors, which have been disproved by the more recent discoveries of historical students, or the development of new information since Judge Furman wrote.

It may be interesting to bibliopoles, who delight in trifles of this sort, to know that some of the same type which was used to set up the original title page, has also been used in the reproduction of the title page of this edition.

In the hope, therefore, that this "labor of love"—as it has been to all concerned in its preparation—may possess some little value as a contribution to the *literary biography* of our country, this new edition of the "Notes" is respectfully submitted by

THE FAUST CLUB, of Brooklyn.

March 30, 1865.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH
OF
GABRIEL FURMAN.

Gabriel Furman, author of the Notes on Brooklyn, although but a few years ago moving in the midst of men, has already become almost *a myth*. The members of his immediate family circle have departed, his collections of books, laboriously gathered, have been scattered. No portrait of him is known to exist. There are few memoranda to be found in the papers which have been preserved, and few recollections in the minds of his remaining friends by which he can be distinctly recalled and presented to the readers of the present time.

The writer of this sketch was perhaps as well acquainted with him, and with his thoughts, habits and feelings as any of his contemporaries were permitted to be. The writer was however ten years his junior, which makes his distinct personal knowledge of Judge Furman to commence at the time when the Judge was about twenty-one years old, and began to take part in the public affairs and social movements of the then incorporated village of Brooklyn.

Gabriel Furman was born in Brooklyn, Kings County

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on Long Island, January 23d, in the year 1800. After diligent search among his relatives and connections, a family record was found which fortunately preserves this fact.

He was born in the homestead of his father, William Furman, which stood in 1822 and for some years after, on the south side of Fulton Ferry, at No. 5 Fulton street, just upon the water line, on the site now occupied by the office of the Brooklyn City Rail Road Company.

The family of Furman first came to Newtown, Long-Island, from Old England by way of New England, and settled there in 1651. From Newtown, they scattered upon the Island.

William Furman, his father, came to Brooklyn from New Lotts just after the Revolution, filled various prominent offices, was first Judge of Kings County from 1808 to 1823, village trustee in 1817, after the village incorporation in 1816; Supervisor for several years, Member of Assembly from 1824 to 1826, and for many years President of the Brooklyn Fire Insurance Company, incorporated in 1824.

But little is known of the schoolboy days of Gabriel Furman. A diary left by him shews, that from October 1814, to November 16, 1816, he was at school at Columbia Academy, Bergen, New Jersey. This diary is ruled with open columns, in which he notes the state of the roads and weather. It shews besides that he had a school-boy's enthusiasm toward the fair sex, although he always remained a bachelor. Some allusions also shew that even at this early time he was apt in allusion to literary and classic characters.

He studied law in the office of Elisha W. King, Beek-

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man-street, New-York, entering 27th June, 1823, and was with him a favorite student, from his characteristics of method and steadiness, as well as for eminent analytic qualities of mind. These qualities attended him in a large degree after his admission to the bar, during several years of practice in the Courts, and Judicial experience, and never during life altogether left him. There was no period during his somewhat erratic and clouded career, when Judge Furman would not have been considered a good lawyer. A learned Judge, long one of his most valued friends, speaking of some papers prepared by him in a chancery proceeding, not long before his death, said, "they would have been considered fair work for the ablest solicitor."

But however well suited the mind of Judge Furman seemed to be in its general structure, to the processes and investigations of the law, and although he had fair reputation at the bar, and in the Court of Errors of this State, while a Senator, yet there is abundant evidence that the toils of jurisprudence were not the most consonant to his tastes.

Among his memoranda occur these reflections :

"As to politics and contest for office, they are entirely dissimilar to my habits of feeling, and very unpleasant, and nothing but an imperious sense of duty to my country would ever induce me to enter at all into them, or to have any sort of connection with them.— My wish would be, if possible to be attained, to pass my life as a literary man, and a humble enquirer into the history of my country—never to mingle in political strife—never to hold an office of any kind; but quietly to while away my time among my books and

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“papers, and when it pleased the Almighty Disposer of
“all events to call me hence, to lay my head on the pil-
“low of death in peace with all men. There is nothing
“on earth to compare, in the least degree, with the joy
“and comfort which attends literary research, with the
“inward satisfaction which results from a day thus spent.
“It strikes me that a man truly literary can never be
“immoral.”

Again, “No one but a person who possesses, what the
“world calls, ‘a taste for reading,’ in its true sense, and
“has improved the taste by years of practice, can duly
“appreciate the meaning and force of Hunt’s remark as
“‘to doating upon old books.’ It is a passion which
“gains strength by what it feeds on, and affords an unal-
“loyed pleasure, far, very far, transcendently far, be-
“yond what can be afforded by any other pursuit in this
“life. It also renders a man to a great extent independent
“of the world for his happiness and enjoyments. Socie-
“ty with its pleasures is not with him as it is with thou-
“sands, everything. He has another World, unaffected
“by toils and troubles—in which there are no storms or
“tempests; but everything is peace, calm and sunshine—
“an eternal Spring and Summer, having at once the pro-
“mise and the fruition. And to this blessed World he
“can withdraw at pleasure, and there associate and ‘hold
“sweet converse’ with those great and noble Spirits, of
“which the World of mankind, the common World, is
“not worthy.

“This to the uninitiated in the secrets of Knowledge,
“may sound like nonsense, or at least like enthusiasm;
“but those who have tried the experiment, and have be-
“come the denizens of that happy World, (and all men

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"can be so at their pleasure in this country,) know it is
"nothing but truth, plain naked truth."

It is not to be doubted, that had circumstances enabled Judge Furman to follow entirely the strong bent of his historic and antiquarian predilections, he would have produced works of greater scope and completeness than he has left behind him.

During the Summer of 1814, the students of Columbia Academy, Bergen, New-Jersey, tendered their services to the Committee of Defence in the City of New-York, marched over to Brooklyn with a flag and worked all day on the works at Fort-Greene, now Washington Park, Brooklyn. Furman, who was one of them, in recording this transaction says, "I feel a pride which every free born American ought to feel in saying, this is the second day I have worked to raise fortifications during this contest, to protect my country from an invading foe."

Nov. 9th, 1816.—At Bergen, N. J., while still at the Academy, he says, "this evening I spent very agreeably chatting with the girls trying to persuade them there was no such passion as love,—a fine employment for a boy about sixteen—however, I could not succeed."

He began almost as a boy to make memoranda of meteorological occurrences and of facts which attracted his attention in reading.

He never went to College, though it is evident that he gave a share of his time at the schools he attended, to the study of the classics, and had a fair knowledge of the Latin and Greek authors. He was fond of attending the "Commencements" of Columbia College, from which fact many of his friends supposed he had gradu-

ated from that institution. An appeal to its records, and a further investigation shew that he was never a student of any College.

In 1820, he was active in forming a debating Society in the City of Brooklyn, in the exercises of which he evidently took a conspicuous and interested part. He was also about this time an earnest advocate of the right of Brooklyn to participate in an equal degree with New-York in the establishment of Ferries, between that city and Brooklyn.

In 1824, at the invitation of the citizens of Brooklyn, he delivered the Fourth of July Oration, in the Dutch Reformed Church in Joralemon Street.

In 1827, he was appointed by Governor Clinton a Justice of the Municipal Court of Brooklyn, then just established, with John Garrison and Thomas Kirk as associates. This office he filled with credit for three years.

As his judgment ripened, his taste for Antiquarian pursuits and learned investigations increased, until they held the chief place in his mind. With him this taste seems to have been intuitive. It is not known that he derived it from any example or associations. He became a haunter of book-stands and libraries. He began to collect a library of his own, which gradually became rich in every class of curious learning, and in that of Astrology perhaps superior to any other in the country. He lost no opportunity of increasing his own written collections and memoranda. As these accumulated he had them substantially bound in neat and symmetrical small quarto volumes, which had reached the number of sixteen at the time of his decease. Of these volumes twelve can be traced since the dispersion of his library.

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These volumes seem to be a heterogeneous medley, and embrace almost every conceivable topic of curiosity or inquiry, from the most scientific to the most absurd and trivial. These are thrown together without order in a perfect chance-medley. A little may be found here "*de omnibus rebus et ceteris aliis.*" Perhaps the most prominent topic is that of extraordinary recipes or cures of disorders, which involve faith in some principle a little superstitious. Indeed it is not to be doubted that his mind had a tendency to superstition as he remarks, in these memoranda "that all men have at times a strong tendency to superstition." The next principal topic is perhaps the weather, about which he is curious to note the peculiarities and changes from year to year, with comments on such phenomena as he deems may affect health. Then there are notes upon books, shewing an extensive knowledge of those which are rare and curious. Shakspeare, in all that can elucidate his history, has a large share of his attention. The drama in all ages and in all phases enlisted his eager interest.

In the midst of this "mighty mass of miscellaneous matter," it is fortunate that the local instincts of Judge Furman led him to jot down all that occurred to his observation in the elementary condition and progress of his native city. His mind early turned toward its charters, traditions, revolutionary reminiscences, and the facts of its early settlement and population, agriculture and trade. He seemed to have an intuitive and prophetic sagacity as to the importance of describing, recording and fixing the dates of many things of his own time, which would change with progress and be forgotten.—The minuteness of some of these details may look like

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folly and simplicity, but still the better critics will admit that they go to make up his reputation as an Antiquarian of the best character who knew that these "details" would grow to be the very things that "posterity would delight in." Already in the rapid rush of population for the past thirty years, since Brooklyn assumed the character of a city, the old buildings and land-marks have been swept away, and but for "Furman's Notes" and "Guy's Picture of Brooklyn," it would be impossible to trace its beginnings.

The "Notes on Brooklyn," first scattered in these note books and common place books were brought together to some extent in 1822, to oblige his friend, Col. Spooner, between whom and himself existed a strong friendship, and published in his first directory of Brooklyn. At his suggestion, Judge Furman was led to amplify them and present them in the form in which they are so well known and highly appreciated by the families of "early Brooklyn." Although time and opportunity have greatly increased the materials of Brooklyn History, and made some corrections in the work of Furman, it still contains "the very marrow" of our early history.

It is due not only to his memory, but to the study of local history, that a new edition should be printed of a work which has now become very rare. The original edition, printed by Col. Alden Spooner, was but of 250 copies, and in the hands of early residents, every copy is now held to be worth "*a Jew's tooth*." Proposals for this were issued December 30th, 1824, and the work published in March, 1825, though the imprint bears the date of 1824.

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He was an ardent lover of nature, delighting in solitary rambles, frequently noting among his memoranda any objects or occurrences which struck his attention, often accompanied by moral and religious reflections.—Of one of these walks, September 28th, 1821, he says: “The country looked beautiful, tinged with the golden tints of the setting sun—all around was still and calm. Oh, when I finish my course in this life, may I depart with like glory, and may my end be like this setting sun—to rise on a glorious morrow.”

Judge Furman was an active and zealous member of the Protestant Episcopal Church. His father, William Furman was warden of St. John’s Church, (of Rev. Evan M. Johnson,) in Johnson-street, from the time of its erection in 1826, and his son Gabriel, the subject of this sketch, was for several years Vestryman and Treasurer thereof. It is the testimony of the Rev. Evan M. Johnson, the first Rector thereof, (yet living,) that he was in all things, during his connection with that church, a bright pattern and example of christian and manly virtue. He did not think “a purer young man ever lived.” In the building and decoration of the church his knowledge of ancient church proprieties enabled him to be of material aid. He delighted in mediæval patterns of stained glass, and was a fixed friend of the cheerful Christmas custom of decorating the church with Evergreens.

In this connection we may as well introduce an anecdote coupled with his name, told us by the same venerable clergyman, now seventy-two years old.

When he was about departing for Europe some years ago, he had a parting interview with Judge Furman

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who said to him, "you will of course visit Cambridge?" Mr. Johnson replied, "Yes." "Then," said the Judge, "when you visit the College, be sure to inquire for the Library of Samuel Pepys." Mr. Johnson visited Cambridge, and preached there, taking up his lodgings opposite Trinity College. His particular and intimate friend while there, had long been a professor of the College. After he had seen the ordinary shows, Mr. Johnson inquired of this professor "where he could find the library of Samuel Pepys?" The professor assured him there must be some mistake—there was no such library in Cambridge! "But" said Mr. Johnson, "I know there is. My informant is one of the most distinguished and accurate antiquarians in America, and could not mistake on such a point. This Library was bequeathed by Samuel Pepys to Magdalen College." His pertinacity set the professor upon inquiry, who returned to him with a face of utter amazement. "It is all true," said he, "and I have been in this College twenty-five years, and never before heard of it! But it is no wonder. We of the College are not allowed to see such things. They are reserved only for distinguished visitors." On applying to the Vice Chancellor a special permission was obtained to visit the Library of this distinguished Antiquary and Book-Collector. Here Mr. Johnson saw everything kept just in the order and condition in which Samuel Pepys had left it. He was particularly curious in Old English ballads, some of which were lying strewn upon the floor, just where they had dropped from his hand.

Judge Furman was one of the Committee to erect the Court House and Jail in Raymond-street, Brooklyn, of

which Gamaliel King was the Architect. In this building the Judge indulged his taste for the antique, and his admiration of the Gothic style, being particular, among other things, that it should exhibit a massive oaken door with all the graining and other natural peculiarities of the wood. His nicety in this particular availed but little, as a subsequent Board of Supervisors had the door carefully painted with a thick coating of a brilliant and glaring white.

In November, 1838, he was elected to the Senate of this State, in which he served for 1839, 1840, 1841 and 1842. The records of the Senate, which was at that time the Court of Errors, shew that he was industrious and able on the judicial side of his duties. He also made some statesmanlike speeches, particularly the one touching the Canal policy of the State, which he always favored. His full speech, made in 1842, reported in the Albany Evening Journal during that year, on the policy of completing the public works, at an expense upon which the interest could be realized from tolls, is a masterly and laborious exposition of the whole subject, as cogent in argument as it is rich in statistics.

In 1841 he delivered two valuable and interesting lectures on the Discoveries of the Northmen and of Aboriginal Remains in America, before the Brooklyn Lyceum. These were repeated before the Mercantile Library Association, New-York, the Young Men's Christian Associations of Albany and Troy, and afterwards at Utica, Canandaigua and Rochester.

In 1842, Luther Bradish was nominated for Governor and Judge Furman for Lieutenant-Governor by the Whig Party of the State. They were not elected.

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The writer thinks an anecdote connected with Judge Furman and this campaign may not be amiss as it exhibits strikingly a peculiarity, which in the end made him not only a recluse, but an exile from his friends. When his nomination had been secured by the exertions of some very warm friends, it became desirable to secure his letter of acceptance. He was written to without reply. It was understood that the publication of the letter of Mr. Bradish was withheld to be made at the same time with Judge Furman's. This never came.—The writer was requested, with Theodore Eames, Esq., the law partner of the Judge to call on him at the Eagle Hotel, Albany, and repair the omission. The call was made at about eight o'clock in the morning, on their way to Utica by the early train to attend the confirmatory convention. On asking to be shewn to the Judge's room, the boy of the Hotel flatly refused, saying, "It is against positive orders." On being informed of the urgency of the occasion, that we two were his near friend, and law partner who would see him but a few minutes, and that the fate of his election might turn upon it, the boy still said "it can't be done—he won't see any body!" As we turned away despairingly, the question was thrown out, "what time in the day does the Judge get up?"—"Four o'clock in the afternoon," curtly responded the lad. It was a hopeless case. The delegation proceeded by the morning train, and it is believed that the ordinary letters of acceptance were never given.

As a further confirmation of his habits while Senator, at Albany, the writer inquired of a respectable and worthy Senator from the first district, a political colleague of the Judge and constantly on the same committees,

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what he thought of him? His reply was, "I don't know him. He comes and goes as he pleases—fires off a mile or two of his canal speech every day, and never associates with any body."

1843, October 25th, he delivered the Annual Address before the American Institute, at Niblo's, New-York.

1844, October 10th, he delivered the Annual Address before the Queen's County Agricultural Society.

In addition to the "Notes on Brooklyn," Judge Furman, at the instance of William Gowans of New-York, the well known dealer in ancient books, has enriched Denton's History, first published in 1670, with a body of valuable notes. In an advertisement appended to this he promises a History of a tribe of Welsh Indians which early settled in America. This work has never yet appeared. This story of Madoc and his voyage to the West Indies in 1170, was well calculated to enlist both the speculation and love of exploration which belonged to the mind of Judge Furman.

When that great work, the Natural History of the State of New-York had been determined upon, a letter was sent to him by Gov. Seward, dated June 13th, 1842, which concludes as follows:

"Will you do the State so great a favor as to furnish notes concerning what has been accomplished in regard to Antiquities and also the History of Book Printing.

Your friend and humble servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD."

It is not to be doubted that such a commission would have commanded a zeal and elicited a wealth of learning which few other men possessed. The original plan, however, was altered, and the article written by Judge

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Furman was not used, at least in fullness or form as it was written. Concerning this matter, Judge Furman has left the following note :

"I was anxious that so great a work as the ' Natural History of the State of New-York ' which was intended to comprise some ten or twelve quarto volumes, and which would be first issued and many of the volumes published under the Whig administration of the State, should be not only a credit to the State, but that it also should not impair the high claim which we as a party had always held to advancing literature in our country. With this view I urged upon Gov. Seward that the introduction to the first volume should be a literary history of the State, divided into different heads ; and that each subject should be treated of distinctly, and thus made as perfect as possible by itself without reference to any other head ; that the space required for such introduction was a matter of no moment compared with the importance of having it valuable and complete as such a work would probably never again be published by the State. The Governor assented to my view of the case and soon after addressed me the annexed letter, and I prepared and forwarded him the articles of which the original draft follows in this volume. To my surprise some time after I found that some gentlemen in Albany had advised him to a different course and that he had adopted it and prepared the introduction as we now have it and which has been found great fault with by ' Silliman's Journal,' and other Reviews."

In lecturing his enunciation was clear and distinct, though free from emphasis and enthusiasm.

There are extant of the writings of Judge Furman,

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besides those above alluded to, the second volume of an attempted catalogue of early American Books, also an abstract of the English Laws of the Province, compiled probably while he was a student at law. The friend who brought him to Brooklyn, in his last illness, gathered up the remnants of books and papers remaining in his New-York lodgings. These were deposited for some months in the ferry house at the Fulton Ferry, Brooklyn side. The books, enclosed in a box, were uninjured and reached their appropriate place among the books of the Long-Island Historical Society. The loose papers (which are supposed to have been mainly law papers and of small value) were nibbled into the smallest fragments by rats.

“Man proposes, but God disposes.” We have quoted above, the views of Judge Furman as to the happiness and morality of a life devoted to literary research. The simple and pure lives of many Antiquaries, Historians and Book-men, would seem to confirm his opinion. In the maturity of his years however, after he had in some degree accommodated his tastes to his sense of duty to his country, and enjoyed preferment and tenders of higher preferment, he began to exhibit some phases of conduct and character hardly consistent with perfect sanity. Without detail, the result of these were to leave his family without the protection of a roof, to leave a father and sister helpless and dependent upon others, to die at last in obscurity, while his books and manuscripts were sold by the Sheriff of Kings County. His father died before him, October 16th, 1852, his only sister, Martha, survived him a few years, dying February, 1863. His own life went out amid clouds and darkness.

It is believed by the most intimate of the friends of Judge Furman that his errors and infirmities had their radical source in THE USE OF OPIUM, which he began to take in very small quantities during the cholera season, 1832. This habit at first narrowly restricted and always carefully concealed, increased upon him, until in the end it clouded his faculties, blunted his moral convictions and sensibilities, made him forget ambition and neglect duty, and become a seeker of solitudes aloof from family and early friends. The friends of Judge Furman all agree that he was rarely known to partake of other stimulants.

Judge Furman was by his habits a secluded and isolated man, but not by nature unsocial. When engaged in literary pursuits he disliked to be interrupted. If however a friend by a *coup d'etat* got beyond the barriers he interposed, he was always kind, courteous and conversational, rarely if ever betraying the slightest temper or irritation.

It was rare that Judge Furman chose to dine with more than one person. When first Judge of the Municipal Court, he invited Judge M—— to dine with him at the Cafe Francaise. Judge M——, (supposing a third equally intimate would increase the pleasure,) extended the invitation to Judge R——. Judge Furman at once found an excuse for postponing the dinner.

His frequent visits to New-York were rarely made in company with any one. He would be seen at the book-stands, in the streets, at the libraries, or crossing the ferry entirely alone, never with any appearance of abstraction. In the Brooklyn City Library which at one time he much consulted, he would come quietly in, regard

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nobody, make his investigations, and disappear without a word. If any one chose to address him he was frank and affable.

Although without the quality of piquant wit, or even humor, yet no man relished the latter quality more than he. In the grotesque meetings got up at the Apprentices' Library to oppose the resolution of Gen. McClure, taking the tax from dogs and imposing it upon bachelors, when Jacob Patchen was put in the chair, Judge Furman was, to use a phrase of the time, "*a prominent rowdy*." He also modified his characteristic solitariness so far, as to form a principal member of the Society of "*Trampers*," who in a fellowship of some half-dozen, visited Communipaw and other places, writing sportive essays thereon. But this was in the earlier time. On the second marriage of his friend Col. Spooner, he presided at the supper table, and kept up continual merriment by popping off the champagne corks, with the expression invariably, "*Silence gentlemen, the chairman is about to make a report*." His isolated habits increased with years until he came to deny himself to his best friends and on the most important occasions.

Judge Furman was of the middle height, well made, with a face of brownish color, tending to length, a prominent Roman nose, and a well made forehead, from which some of the hair seemed to have been removed to give it additional height. He was always neatly dressed in a frock coat of snuff colored or greenish cloth, with light pantaloons and vest, and shoes with spatter-dashes. His black fur hat carefully brushed, was turned up at the sides. His neck-tie was a little gay and ornamental — His *tout-ensemble* was that of a polished gentleman, while

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there was a peculiarly quaint and prim air about him, which suggested the scholar or antiquary. His pace in walking was very measured and deliberate.

The homestead at the foot of Fulton-street was encroached upon in the widening of that street. It was afterwards sold, and Judge Furman about 1836 removed to the house 103 Willow-street, which he occupied several years. Here he was framed amid his books which filled the front room of the second story in convenient alcoves, and kept himself as far as possible secure against intruders.

This homestead was suddenly broken up in the wreck of his financial affairs, and the inmates sent forth to seek shelter without the least warning. He himself soon after took lodgings in the city of New-York, and became from that time forth an exile from his friendships and associations. He prepared the catalogue for the sale of his library, which was sold in New-York to pay his debts. For a considerable space his haunts were understood to be at Communipaw, Bergen Point, and Jersey City, (scenes of his early youth and later rambles,) where his associates were the fishermen of the region. At one time he was certainly interested in the searches prosecuted on the North River near Cornwall, to recover treasure understood to be sunken in one of "Captain Kidd's" vessels. In spite of the abundant evidences presented by the Hon. Henry C. Murphy, in his article in the *Merchant's Magazine*, and others, to shew that no vessel of "Kidd's" was ever sunk in the place indicated, Judge Furman gave to the stock issued the support of his antiquarian reputation, which no doubt aided in making victims to this bubble and delusion. Nothing could

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more shew the changes his mind had taken toward delusions, than the fact that in the *earlier soundness* of his judgment, he had treated this whole theory of "Kidd's" vessel as an absurdity, and commented upon the innumerable diggings for his fabulous gold as the supremacy of folly.

After long absence he returned among his friends, and seemed as though he had left them but the day before. He was always poor and required some pecuniary assistance, and seemed ready to occupy a desk in an office and address himself with ability to some professional work. These occasions were fitful, and soon followed by a return to his secret haunts.

At length in 1854 it became known to one of his best and most steadfast friends, that he was sick and unable to move from his lodgings. These were found to be a small bed-room in a Hotel in Frankfort-street on the site of the old Dutch Church. Here he was found in a miserable condition, with his limbs and body covered with painful ulcers, so that, to use the phrase of his friend, the flesh dropped off from his bones. He was provided with a serving man for a few days, when, as it was evident his strength was failing, the friend alluded to, procured a carriage, and had him carefully conveyed to the Brooklyn City Hospital, Raymond-street, next to the Court House and Jail he had assisted in erecting, holding him in his arms all the way. He was in a state of extreme debility and stupor. As the carriage passed the facade of the jail his face lighted up with a gleam of intelligence and recognition, and to the question of his friend, "do you know that?" he nodded assent. He was placed in the Hospital, and had the most assiduous at-

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tention until his death, which occurred on the day he entered, the 11th of November, 1854, of "chronic diarrhœa," as stated in the books of the Institution.

The writer there looked his last upon that countenance once so familiar, but would have found no trace of identity, save in the marked character of the Roman nose, always a dignifying feature of his somewhat remarkable and decidedly intellectual face. His funeral was attended from that Institution by a few friends and professional brethren. He is buried in Greenwood Cemetery, in the burial lot of his aunt, Mrs. Boyd, who but a few months ago died in Brooklyn, at the age of 96.



In seeking persons familiar with the feelings and pursuits of Gabriel Furman, the writer could not neglect his long esteemed friend and adviser, William Gowans, elsewhere referred to as the publisher of the *Bibliotheca Americana*. This gentleman kindly put upon paper his recollections. These have been found to embrace so much that is interesting and characteristic, that I have taken the liberty to present them in the form adopted by the writer.

REMINISCENCES
OF THE
Hon. GABRIEL FURMAN,
BY
WILLIAM GOWANS.

To the "Faust Club" of Brooklyn :

Gentlemen:—If I should send a motto for your memoir, it would be :

"To attend to the neglected and to remember the forgotten."—BURKE.

The Honorable Gabriel Furman, of Brooklyn, Long-Island, was a man whose memory I still call to affectionate remembrance; his didactic conversation, his demeanor and staid appearance are all still as fresh in my mind's eye as in those halcyon days when he used to visit my store of books. He was a native of Brooklyn, Long-Island, born in or near the year 1800.

I will endeavor to describe some of his mental characteristics and his personal appearance, or rather how he appeared *to me*. He was small of stature, compactly built, walked with a slow and measured step, as if in deep meditation, his complexion was brown, with a smooth or soapy appearance, his eyes dark and twinkling, strongly marked aquiline or Roman nose, middle cartilage descending lower than the exterior covers, a high forehead. The whole head and face taken altogether, I should say, had a decided resemblance to

Mons. Pascal's, the famous French Philosopher, and devout Christian; as represented by a portrait of him lately discovered, and which accompanies the late French editions of his works as well as the English; his hair black, soft as silk or Thibet wool, his hand as mellow and plump as that of any young lady, such an one as Lord Byron would have greatly coveted. He was always dressed in the neatest style, in cloth of invisible green, olive, or black; taken altogether he might easily have been taken for a Turkish Mufti, especially, if he had been found among the Orientals. As a general thing in walking through the streets he had a book or books under one arm, more especially if he was going from New-York to Brooklyn.

He was among the first and steadiest as a purchaser of books, and I may here confess, that he it was who mainly by his advice, as well as his extensive purchases of American Literature, directed my attention to that specialty. The literature of the New World at that time (1830) stood very low in the estimation of Americans in general.

For some time the Hon. Sir James Stuart of Dunern, Scotland, Samuel G. Drake, Esq., of Boston, and the Hon. Gabriel Furman, were the only buyers of American books.

Our intimacy commenced in this way. Upon a very genial afternoon in the month of September, 1831, he came along Chatham-street, and espying a book establishment at No. 121 of very tiny dimensions, and scantily stocked with indifferent books arranged around the walls, he entered it, made a long and careful examination of the contents, without uttering a word, and at

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last when he had got through, stepped up to me with two aged volumes in his hand, and asked me what would be the price of them? I of course very willingly made answer to the query, inasmuch as I was very anxious to sell. The book proved to be the Miscellaneous Works of John Toland, one of the free writers on religion and politics of the age of Queen Anne, of whom England swarmed with such at that time, Lord Bolingbroke standing at the head. This book among other curious matters, had a history of the British Druids, the article which had more especially attracted his attention, and which prompted him to purchase the grim old volumes. Respecting the history of this copy of said work, I begged his attention for a short time, till I had said a few words concerning it. This book appeared from the book plates affixed inside of each first cover, to have at one time belonged to Lord Fullerton of Carstairs, County of Lanark in Scotland. Said Carstairs was in the vicinity of my natal home, and I remember the character that this eccentric Lord bore in the neighborhood, not only for his religious and political opinions, but for his social habits. He had the reputation of having a very large and curious library, a rather uncommon appendage to a homestead in a country place, and further it was known that he would freely *lend* his books to any one who could give security for their safe and uninjured return. This security consisted in a note payable on demand, the sum named being four times the market value of the book. A ledger account was kept with the borrower, the name and price entered and value of the book charged at the time when taken away, and the time named when to be brought back. If failing to comply with the

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terms the fourfold price of the book became forfeited, the sum was demanded by a messenger sent to the delinquent by his lordship. I have understood that law-suits have grown out of these "Tom Thumb" contracts. Now these volumes that I sold to Mr. Furman, must have been got from his library, by some one who failed to return them, and they must have been brought to America by some emigrant who afterwards disposed of them on this side of the Atlantic. I purchased the volumes at the sale of the late Rt. Rev. Bishop Hobart's Library, which was sold shortly after I became a book-seller.

He took great interest in the narrative, and I remember, when one of the portions of his library was sold, that identical copy of Toland's *Miscellaneous Works* made its appearance, and in it this whole narrative was amplified, and written upon inserted writing paper, with much additional matter respecting the Fullerton family, as well as a dissertation on the Infidel writers of the times of Lord Herbert, Collins, Toland, Wollaston, Mandeville, Tindall, Blount, Shaftesbury, Morgan, Chubb, and afterwards Voltaire, Rousseau, Hume and Gibbon. Who became the fortunate purchaser of these interesting volumes I know not; they are no doubt in the possession of some diligent collector, either in New-York city or in the far-west.

Thus commenced my intimacy with the Hon. Gabriel Furman, which continued without interruption, until he became financially, as well as physically, unable either to purchase or visit my book-store. He called on me weekly, and sometimes oftener, and seldom made a call without making a purchase.

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But what added to the value of his visits, was his advice and counsels to me, then a very young man, which possessed great interest, and proved afterwards of vast importance in my line of business. He had the old English Nobleman's notion of buying books at auction. He never attended one of these sales, but if anything turned up that he was particularly desirous of possessing, in any collection to be sold, he would call upon me, or write and request that I would purchase the books designated by him in the catalogue. He never named any price, and was invariably satisfied with all my purchases or even those that I declined to purchase, on account of price or condition.

As a book buyer, and consequently collector, it may be safely affirmed, that he had no equal in the country at the time. Some who are collectors, or familiar with the fraternity, may think this an exaggeration, but this would only prove that they had no knowledge of his habits in this line. His appetite for books was insatiable, indeed so much so that it interfered with his profession to his pecuniary detriment. As an instance of this taste for accumulation, he had certain favorite authors, of whose works he bought every edition, as well as all commentaries, dissertations, or any printed book or pamphlet touching them or their works. Among the most conspicuous of these authors were Shakspeare, Milton and Burns; of the former he had so many editions that the number of volumes united would count over one hundred, and of treatises illustrative of the same, several hundred. Shakspeare, in his estimation, was the greatest and the grandest of all Authors, excelling his contemporaries in depth, breadth and

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brilliancy as far as the sun excels the moon in giving light.

He spent much of his time in the study of the English Drama, and dramatic literature. His study had a particular fascination for him, and as a consequence he had become quite familiar with the works of the principal authors, more especially the contemporaries of Shakspeare, and their immediate successors of the ages of Charles I. and II. His desire was to accumulate the works of every dramatic author, as well as the leading histories and illustrations of the Drama.

He made a rail-fence or zig zag tour through Long-Island, from Brooklyn to Montauk-Point. He wrote an account of this tour, wherein much matter was embodied touching the remnants of Indian tribes still lingering on the Island, as well as much of historical and statistical research, concerning the Island at large. This interesting tour was never published. He is understood to have placed it in a hollow tree during his rambles and never to have regained it.

He commenced the collecting of American books, when as before hinted the taste in this country was limited to but a few. I sold him numerous books and pamphlets, which now would realize from ten to fifteen times the amount which he paid for them.

I will give a few examples:

Smith's Hist. of New-Jersey, a fine copy, \$2 00.

Smith's Hist. of New-York, large, fine paper, clean copy, \$4 to \$4 25.

Cotton Mather's Magnalia, fol., \$7 50.

Thomas's Hist. of Printing in America, 2 v. 8vo, bds., nncut, \$2 00.

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Smith's Hist. of Virginia, 2 v. 8vo, bds., \$3 00.

*Yates & Moulton's Hist. of New-York, 2 v., 8vo, bds.,
\$2 00.

Hazard's American State Papers, 2 vols., 4to, bds ,
uncut \$4.

Original Edition of Denton's New-York, \$5 00.

Mathew Carey's American Museum, 12 vols, \$9 00.

Niles's Register, 75 vols., \$50 00.

American Remembrancer, 17 vols., 8vo, \$17 00.

Besides many pamphlets at from ten to fifteen cents,
which would now realize dollars.

He was a stanch Episcopalian, and had a decided leaning to, and affinity with what is called the high church party of that denomination, even to the lighting of candles in church during divine service, in the day time.— On this subject he and I could not agree for five minutes at a time. He was a great admirer of the English hierarchy, not only of their principles, but of their theological and literary abilities. Jeremy Taylor, Hooker, South, Barrow, Atterbury, Waterland, besides some of the leading puritan writers, were favorite authors.— Works on Demonology, Witchcraft and Supernaturalism generally, were also a favorite class of books, which formed a part of his collection. Amongst them he had a copy of the Works of the famous Magician, Cornelius Agrippa, in 2 vols. 4to., Life of Apollonius Tyrannus, the Sybilline Oracles, and many others of kindred character.

He wrote a book to prove the existence of a tribe of

*I had over two hundred copies of this book in sheets. which is now worth \$20 a copy, which I used for wrapping paper. I never think of this sacrifice but with regret

Welsh Indians in America, a subject which has engaged the attention of many besides him. He was a firm believer that such a tribe did exist, and is still existing, located somewhere on or west of the Rocky Mountains. Catlin in his book on the N. A. Indians favors the like belief. This book was intended to form No. 2 of my *Bibliotheca Americana*, but unfortunately soon after the manuscript was put into my possession, waiting for publication, he called one day and requested to be permitted to take the same home with him, as he had not only corrections, but additions to make. He accordingly carried it off, and I never saw more of it. What has become of this precious relic, I never could learn. It is my opinion that a portion of his library is still secreted somewhere either in Brooklyn or New-York. Should this turn out to be so, the lost treasure may be recovered. Many books of notable mark he got from me, I have never been able to trace : for example, there was a folio copy of Denton's New-York, (only four copies printed,) Works of Cornelius Agrippa, 2vols., 4to. Almon's American Remembrancer, 17 vols., 8vo., Thomas's History of Printing, 2 vols., 8vo, bds., uncut. These as well as many others, I still recollect of, were never sold with any portions of his library, that I have seen sold, and I think I have witnessed all that have been disposed of by public sale.

He was never married, and from all that I could observe or learn he was one of the most indifferent to the influence and charms of the fair sex that could well be imagined.*

* In regard to this trait, it is enough to state, whether for good or ill, that there is evidence that Judge Furman, though remaining a bachelor, was not inattentive to the charms, nor free from the thralldom of the fair sex. [EDITOR.]

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It was usual on his visits to my book-store, for the conversation to turn upon other matters and things besides books, book selling and book buying. On a certain occasion it turned upon the distress caused to those who were afflicted with fever and ague. I remarked that I had a friend who had been unusually tormented with this disease. He observed that a cure could be very easily effected, and he would with pleasure give me a receipt to that end. He forthwith proceeded to give me an oral prescription as follows: "Go to a certain tree at the full of the moon, armed with a certain number of pills, (the ingredients of which they were to be composed, I now forget,) go around the tree three times to the right, and again three times to the left, then stop on the side upon which the moon shines, place the back straight up against the tree, facing the moon, and remain in this position for a certain time. This being over, bore with an auger a hole into the tree behind where the patient stood, then place one half of the pills into the auger hole, and swallow the other half. This ceremony being concluded, let the patient go home, and immediately go to bed, and next morning he would find that the pestiferous ague would have taken its everlasting departure, from the body of the wearied sufferer."

I listened with great gravity to all this, but the cure appeared so preposterous, as well as ridiculous, that I burst out laughing. At this indecorous and unmannerly return for his kindness, he became quite angry and made some remarks corroborative of the state of his mind.—I apologized in the best manner I could, and so the matter ended.

This is the only instance in which I ever remember to

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have observed him out of temper, and our intimacy had existed for fourteen years. Credulity on certain subjects was one of his peculiarities; the marvelous and supernatural on many subjects and things appeared to him as positive as mathematical facts; he was a firm believer in the authenticity of the celebrated Moon Hoax by Locke, also of the Captain Kidd * Gold deposit in the Hudson River near Caldwell's Landing, and of the existence and power of Witches.

A few cunning speculators got up a Company for the purpose of lifting the gold supposed to be lying in the bottom of the Hudson River, deposited there by the celebrated freebooter, Captain Kidd. Said company sold their shares in considerable numbers to the credulous believers in this gross imposition. To give credit to the trick, this company procured an old rusty cannon, which apparently had been long under water, purporting to have been taken from Kidd's sunken ship in the Hudson River, near Caldwell's Landing. This gun laid in Wall-Street for many weeks, exhibited to the gaze of the credulous and incredulous multitudes. Many in consequence became purchasers of the stock. Among that number was my friend Gabriel Furman. I need hardly add that not one of those outside of "the ring," ever saw one cent of their money returned.

* This was a latter day belief, contradicting his former writings and convictions. [EDITOR.]

NOTES

GEOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL,

RELATING TO THE

Town of Brooklyn,

IN


KINGS COUNTY

ON

LONG-ISLAND.

——
BY GABRIEL FURMAN.
——

“They are worthy of reprehension who contemn the study of
antiquity, (which is ever accompanied with dignity) as an arid
curiosity.” LORD COKE.

——
BROOKLYN:

PRINTED BY A. SPOONER, NO. 50 FULTON-STREET.

——
1824.

ADVERTISEMENT.



THE Compiler offers these notes to the inhabitants of his native town, in the hope that they may be in some small degree useful and entertaining in discussions relating to the history and rights of this thriving place. He claims no merit for this performance, and neither does he write from the vanity of being considered an author, but is only actuated by a desire to rescue from oblivion such facts as may be interesting to his fellow-citizens. The Compiler would consider himself guilty of ingratitude, if he did not in this public manner, acknowledge the obligations he rests under from the kind assistance afforded him whilst collecting these notices, by Jeremiah Johnson, Abraham Vanderveer, Silas Wood, and John Doughty, Esqrs.

NOTES &c.,
OF THE
TOWN OF BROOKLYN.



SITUATION.

This town is situated in Kings County, on the west end of Long-Island, in the State of New-York. It is bounded north by the City and County of New-York; east by the township of Bushwick; south by the township of Flatbush and New Utrecht; and west by New York Bay; and contains the village of Brooklyn, which is about a mile square. This town formerly composed part of a powerful Indian Sachemdom; and with the other parts of the Island bore the Indian name of Matowcas.^A

This part of the Island, as far as Jamaica was inhabited by the Canarsee tribe of Indians. The old Dutch inhabitants in this county have a tradition, that the Canarsee Indians were subject to the Mohawks, as all the Iroquois were called; and paid them an annual tribute of dried clams and wampum. When the Dutch settled here, they persuaded the Canarsees to keep back the tribute; in consequence of which a party of the Mohawks came down and killed their tributaries wherever they met them. So great was the dread that these Indians afterwards entertained of the Iroquois, that when a party of the Iroquois, during the French war were taken prisoners and imprisoned in the Jail of this county, the Canarsees avoided them with the greatest care; and seemed to be afraid even to come where they should

see them. The Canarsee Indians are at this time totally extinct; not a single member of that ill fated race is now in existence.^b

There was also a small tribe of the Nyack Indians near the Narrows.

In this town is also the United States Navy-Yard, containing about 40 acres; which was purchased of John Jackson, Esq. by Francis Childs, Esq. for \$40,000, and on the 23rd day of February, 1801, was conveyed by said Childs to the United States.

ANCIENT NAMES AND REMAINS.

In 1667, this town was known by the name of Breucklen. In the act to divide the province of New-York into shires and counties, passed Nov. 1, 1683, it is mentioned by the name of Breucklyn. It is also called Broucklyn in the act to divide the province into shires and counties, passed Oct. 1, 1691. The present name Brooklyn, does not appear to have been generally adopted until after the Revolutionary war.

Heads of Indian arrows, beds of oyster and clam shells denoting the former residence of the aborigines, are frequently found in different parts of this town.

Among the most ancient remains are two houses, one owned by the family of Cortelyou, built in 1699^c; the other standing on Fulton-street, in the village of Brooklyn. The last mentioned house was occupied by the Colonial Legislature as a Sessions house, during the prevalence of the small-pox in New-York, in 1752; and at this house on the 4th of June, 1752, 2541 Bills of credit issued by this Colony, amounting to \$3602, 18, 3, were cancelled by the Colonial Commissioners. This house was also occupied by Gen. Putnam as his head quarters

during the stay of the American Army, on Long-Island, in 1776.^d But the oldest house in the town of Brooklyn is supposed to be the house known as No. 64 Fulton-street, in the village of Brooklyn, and now owned and occupied by Mr. Jacob Patchen. Mr. Charles Doughty, who has been dead about 25 years, and was about 85 years of age when he died, said that this was an old house when he was a boy. Mrs. Rapalye, the mother of John Rapalye, whose property in Brooklyn was confiscated during the Revolutionary war, says that this house was built by a family of the Remsens who came from Holland.^e

SOIL AND CLIMATE.

The soil of this town appears to be mostly alluvial, though some few primitive rocks are to be met with. Several years since, in digging a well on some of the highest ground in Brooklyn, a hemlock board was found at the depth of 30 feet, and again at the depth of 73 feet, oyster and clam shells were met with, which crumbled on being exposed to the air.

The shores of Brooklyn, where they are not defended by wharves, are undergoing continual and rapid changes, in consequence of the velocity of the current in the East River. The tide rises here about 5 feet.

There is very little doubt, but that Governor's Island was formerly connected with Red Hook point, in this town. It is an established fact, that previous to the Revolutionary contest, cattle were driven from Red Hook to Governor's Island, which places at that time were only separated by a very narrow channel, which is called Buttermilk channel, and is now wide and deep enough to ad-

mit of the largest size of merchant vessels passing through.^F

The climate is very changeable, but cannot be called unhealthy. People in this town live to as great age, as in almost any other part of the United States; as instances of which, April, 1823, Mr. Tiebout died in this town, aged 100 years and 10 months. The same year, Mr. Schoonmaker died, aged 84 years; and in 1824, Mary Peterson, a colored woman died, aged 103 years. It is not an uncommon thing for the inhabitants to live beyond the "three score years and ten."

This town has at different periods been visited by the yellow fever. Between July 10th and September 10th, 1809, 28 persons died of that disease.—During the prevalence of the yellow fever in the city of New-York, in the summer of 1822, seven persons died of that disease in Brooklyn. In the summer of 1823, the yellow fever made its appearance in the village of Brooklyn, and nine persons fell victims to that dreadful pestilence, in the space of one month, during which time its ravages continued. Every year that this disease made its appearance amongst us, it could be distinctly traced to some foreign cause; as, in 1809, it was brought in the ship *Concordia*, Captain Coffin, on board of which vessel the first case and death happened. In 1822, it was introduced from the city of New York—and in 1823, it was traced to two or three vessels which had arrived a short time previous from southern latitudes. Indeed the high and airy situation of Brooklyn almost precludes the idea of its being engendered among us.

ANCIENT GRANTS AND PATENTS.

In the year 1638, William Kieft, Director General and Counsellor for their high mightinesses the

States General, and his highness the Prince of Orange, granted to Abraham Rycken, a tract of land in the present town of Brooklyn.^g

September 11, 1642, William Kieft, Director General, &c., patented to Jan Manje, a piece or parcel of land containing 20 morgan, or 40 acres, in the town of Brooklyn. A copy of which patent is hereto annexed as a specimen of those ancient instruments:

“By William Kieft, Director General and Counsellor, about the high and mighty Lords, the States General of the United Low Country, and his highness of Orange, and the Lords Commanders of the privileged West India Company, residing in the New-Netherland, do ratify and declare by these presents, that we, upon the date hereinafter written, did give and grant to Jan Manje, a piece of land, greatly twenty morgan, stretching about south-east one hundred and ninety rods inward the woods, towards to Sassians maise land—long is the limits of the said maise land fifty rod, and then again to the water side, two hundred and twenty rod, about north north-west, well so northerly and along the strand or water side, seventy rod. Which above-said land is lying upon Long-Island, between Andries Hudde and Claes Janse Ruyter.—With express conditions, &c. Dated at Fort Amsterdam, in the New-Netherland, the 11th day of September, 1642.

WILLIAM KIEFT.

By order of the Lord the Director General, and Counsellor of New-Netherland.

CORNELIUS VANTIENHOVEN, Sec'ry.

January 29, 1652, Pieter Linde, having married the widow of Jan Manje, transported or sold the

above tract of land to Barent Janse. August 23, 1674, before Nicasius de Sille, admitted Secretary of the Dutch towns appeared Jan Barentse, (1) and Auke Janse, with Simon Hansen as Guardian of the other children of Barent Janse, deceased, "procured by his wife Styntie Pieterse deceased, all living within the town of Midwout Fflackbush," and declared that they transported the above tract of land to Dirck Janse Woertman.

September 12, 1645, William Kieft, Director General, &c. patented to Andries Hudden, "a piece of land lying upon Long-Island against over the fort, lying to the south-west to Jan Manje," containing 37 morgan. December 10, 1651, "Pieter Cornelissen by virtue of a procuratie of Andries Hudden," for the consideration of 400 guilders, transported to Lodewyck Jongh the above tract. June 19, 1676, Lodewyck Jongh transported to Jeronimus de Rapalje, eight morgan of the above tract. February 12, 1679, Harmatie Jansen relict of Lodewyck Jongh, transported to Dirck Janse Woertman, 12 morgan of the above tract. May 3, 1685, "Dirck Janse Woertman, transported to the heirs of Jooris Dirckse, a small stroke off land lying at the east side off the highway being all the claime they can pretende by virtue off the abovesaid Patent."

September 30, 1645, William Kieft, Director General, &c., patented to Claes Janse, from Naerder, a piece of land, containing 20 morgan, lying south-east, a little easterly, just over against the Fort, upon Long-Island. March 11, 1660, the above tract of land was transported by Claes Janse

1. The custom of changing the names of sons, or rather substituting the sur-names for the christian names, prevailed at this period, as in the above instance, the fathers name was Barent Janse, and the son was called Jan Barentse.

Ruyter, to Machiell Tadens, who transported the same to Machiell Hainielle.

The three patents to Manje, Hudde, and Janse, from Naerder, were located near the Ferry in this town, and all subsequently were purchased by Derick Woortman, alias Dirck Janse Woertman, and were by him sold to Joras Remsen, on the 10th day of October, 1706, for the sum of £612 10s. current money of New-York.^H

There is great reason to believe that there was a General Patent of this town under the Dutch government, which patent is now lost. What strengthens this idea is, that the first by Governor Nicolls under the English is confirmatory of some former grant.

August 10th, 1695. The Patentees and freeholders of this town sold unto Stephanus Van Cortlandt, the neck of land called Red Hook, containing by estimation 50 acres; which they state in their deed "was formerly given and granted to the town of Broocklyn, in the year 1657, by Governor Stuyvesant, the Dutch Governor then at that time, and since confirmed by the English Governors, Governor Nicolls, and Governor Dongan." Which is very strong proof of there having been a general Dutch Patent for this town.

October, 18, 1667. Richard Nicolls, the first English Governor of New-York, granted to the inhabitants of Brooklyn, the following full and ample patent, confirming them in their rights and privileges.

L. S. "Richard Nicolls, Esq. Governor General under his Royal Highness James Duke of Yorke and Albany, &c. of all his Terretories in America, To all to whom these presents shall come, sendeth Greeting.—Whereas there is a certain town

within this government, situate, lying, and being in the West Riding of Yorkshire upon Long-Island, commonly called and known by the name of Breuckelen, which said town, is in the tenure or occupation of several freeholders and inhabitants who having heretofore been seated there by authority, have been at very considerable charge, in manuring and planting a considerable part of the lands belonging thereunto and settled a competent number of families thereupon. Now for a confirmation unto the said freeholders and inhabitants in their possessions and enjoyment of the premises, Know ye, That by virtue of the commission and authority unto me given by his Royal Highness, I have given, ratified, confirmed and granted, and by these presents, do give, ratify, confirm and grant, unto Jan Everts, Jan Damen, Albert Cornelissen, Paulus Veerbeek, Michael Eney, Thomas Lamberts, Tuenis Guysbert Bogart and Joris Jacobson, as patentees, for and on the behalf of themselves and their associates, the freeholders and inhabitants of the said town their heirs successors and assigns, all that tract together with the several parcels of land which already have or hereafter shall be purchased or procured for and on behalf of the said town, whether from the native Indian proprietors, or others, within the bounds and limits hereafter set forth and exprest, viz. that is to say, the town is bounded westward on the farther side of the land of Mr. Paulus Veerbeek, from whence stretching south-east, they go over the hills, and so eastward along the said hills to a south-east point which takes in all the lotts behind the swamp, from which said lotts the run north-west to the River (?)

2. According to the New-York doctrine, this boundary of the town can only be correct when the tide is flood, for when the water is low, the town is bounded by property belonging to the Corporation of the City of New-York, and not by the River.

and extend to the farm, on the t'other side of the hill heretofore belonging to Hans Hansen over against the Kicke or Looke-out, including within the said bounds and limitts all the lotts and plantations, lying and being at the Gowanis, Bedford, Wallaboucht, and the ferry.—All which said parcels and tracks of land and premises within the bounds and limitts aforementioned, described, and all or any plantation or plantations thereupon, from henceforth are to bee appertaine and belong to the said town of Breucklen, Together with all havens, harbours, creeks, quarryes, woodland, meadow-ground, reed-land or valley of all sorts, pastures, marshes, runs, rivers, lakes, hunting, fishing, hawking, and fowling, and all other profitts, commodities, emoluments, and hereditaments, to the said lands and premises within the bounds and limits all forth belonging, or in any wise appertaining,—and withall to have freedome of commonage for range and feed of cattle and horse into the woods as well without as within these bounds and limitts with the rest of their neighbours ⁽³⁾—as also one-third part of a certain neck of meadow ground or valley called Sellers neck, lying and being within the limits of the town of Jamaica, purchased by the said town of Jamaica from the Indians, and sold by them unto the inhabitants of Breucklen aforesaid, as it has been lately laid out and divided by their mutual consent and my order, whereunto and from which they are likewise to have free egress and regress, as their occasions may require.⁽⁴⁾ To have and

(3) This town enjoyed this privilege in common with the other towns on Long-Island, and their cattle which ran at large were marked with the letter N.

(4) At the annual town meeting, April, 1823, a committee was appointed to inquire if this town at present, had any, and if any, what right to the above-mentioned tract of meadow ground called Sellers neck; what progress this committee made in their investigation, the compiler is uninformed. This meadow called Seller's neck, the Compiler thinks

to hold all and singular the said tract and parcell of land, meadow ground or valley, commonage, hereditaments and premises, with their, and every of their appurtenances, and of every part and parcell thereof to the said patentees and their associates, their heirs successors and assigns, to the proper use and behoof of the said patentees and their associates, their heirs, successors and assigns forever. Moreover, I do hereby give, ratify, confirm and grant unto the said Patentees and their associates, their heirs, successors and assigns, all the rights and privileges belonging to a town within this government, and that the place of their present habitation shall continue and retain the name of Breuckelen, by which name and stile it shall be distinguished and known in all bargains and sales made by them the said Patentees and their associates, their heirs, successors and assigns, rendering and paying such duties and acknowledgments as now are, or hereafter shall be constituted and established by the laws of this government under the obedience of his Royal highness, his heirs and successors. Given under my hand and seal at Fort James, in New-York, on the Island of Manhattat, this 18th day of October, in the nineteenth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord, Charles the second, by the grace of God, of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the faith, &c. Annoque Domini, 1667.

RICHARD NICOLLS.

Recorded by order of the Governor, the day and year above written.

MATTHIAS NICOLLS, Sec'ry.

was apportioned among the patentees and freeholders, and what leads him to this conclusion is, that on the 10th of May, 1695, John Damen, who was one of the patentees of this town, sold to William Huddleston all his interest in the said meadow.

1670. The inhabitants of this town desirous of enlarging the bounds of their common lands, and extinguishing the Indian claim to the same, applied to Governor Lovelace, and obtained from him the following permission to purchase of the Indians.

“*L. S.* Whereas the inhabitants of Breucklyn, in the west Riding of Yorkshire upon Long-Island, who were seated there in a township by the authority then in being, and having bin at considerable charges in clearing ffencing and manuring their land, as well as building ffor their conveniency, have requested my lycense for their further security to make purchase of the said land of some Indians who lay claim and interest therein; These are to certify all whom it may concerne, that I have and doe hereby give the said inhabitants lycense to purchase their land according to their request, the said Indians concerned appearing before me as in the law is required, and making their acknowledgments to be fully satisfyed and paid for the same. Given under my hand and seal at ffort James, in New-Yorke, this ffirst day of May, in the 22nd yeare of his Majestyies reigne, Annoque Dom. 1670.
FFRANCIS LOVELACE.”

The purchase was accordingly made and the following is a copy of a deed from the Indians for the same.

“To all people to whom this present writing shall come, Peter, Elmohar, Job, Makaquiquos, and Shamese, late of Staten-Island send Greeting; Whereas, they the said Peter, Elmohar, Job, Makaquiquos, and Shamese, afore-mentioned, doe lay claime to the land now in the tenne and occupation of some of the inhabitants of Breucklyn, as well as other lands there adjascent as the true Indian

owners and proprietors thereof, Know Yee, that for and in consideration of a certaine sum of wampum and diverse other goods, the which in the Schedule annext are exprest unto the said Sachems in hand payed by Monsieur Machiell Hainelle, Thomas Lambertse, John Lewis, and Peter Darmantier, on the behalf of themselves and the inhabitants of Breucklyn, the receipt whereof they doe hereby acknowledge, and themselves to be fully satisfyed and payed therefor; have given, granted, bargained and sold, and by these presents doe fully, freely, and absolutely give, grant, bargain and sell, unto the said Monsieur Machiell Hainelle, Thomas Lambertse, John Lewis and Peter Darmantier, ffor and on behalf of themselves, and the inhabitants aforesaid, their heys and successors; all that parcell of land and tract of land, in and about Bedford, within the jurisdiction of Brucklyn, beginning ffrom Hendrick Van Aarnhems land by a swamp of water and stretching to the hills, then going along the hills to the port or entrance thereof,⁽⁵⁾ and soe to Rockaway ffoot path as their purchase is more particularly sett fforth; To have and to hold all the said parcell and tract of land and premises within the limits before described unto the said Monsieur Machiell Hainelle, Thomas Lambertse, John Lewis, and Peter Darmantier, ffor and on the behalf of the inhabitants aforesaid, their heyres, and successors, to the proper use and behooff of the said inhabitants, their heyres and successors forever; in witness whereof the partyes to these presents have hereunto sett their hands and seales, this 14th day of May, in the 22nd yeare of his Majestyes reigne, Annoque Dom. 1670.

(5) This "port or entrance," as it is called, is situate in the valley on the Flatbush Turnpike, near the "Brush" or "Valley Tavern," and a short distance beyond the 3 mile post from Brooklyn ferry.—A freestone monument has been placed here, to designate the patent line between Brooklyn and Flatbush.

Sealed and Delivered in the presence of Mathias Nicolls, R. Lough, Samuel § Davies, John Garland.
his marke

The mark of P Peter, (L. s.)

The mark of o Elmo har, (L. s.)

The mark of N Job, (L. s.)

The mark of 2 Makaquiquos, (L. s.)

The mark of 7 Shame se, (L. s.)

“This Deed was acknowledged by the within written Sachems, before the Governor in the presence of us, the day and year within written.

MATHIAS NICOLLS, Secretary.

The Mark of § SAMUEL DAVIES.

“Recorded by order of the Governor,

MATHIAS NICOLLS, Secretary.

The Inventory, or Schedule referred to in the Deed.

“The payment agreed upon for the purchase of the land in and about Bedford, within the jurisdiction of Breucklyn, conveyed this day by the Indian Sachems, proprietors, is, viz.

100 Guilders Seawant,

Half a tun of strong Beer,

2 half tuns of good beer,

3 Guns, long barrells, with each a pound of powder, and lead proportionable—2 bars to a gun,

4 match coates.”

May 13, 1686. Governor Dongan granted to the inhabitants of Brooklyn the following confirmatory patent:

L. S. “Thomas Dongan, Lieutenant Governor, and Vice Admiral of New-York, and its de-

pendencies under his Majesty James the Second, by the grace of God, of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, &c.—Supreme lord and proprietor of the Colony and province of New-York and its dependencies in America, &c. To all to whom this shall come sendeth greeting, whereas the Honorable Richard Nicolls, Esq. formerly Governor of this province, did by his certain writing or patent under his hand and seal, bearing date the eighteenth day of October, Annoque Domini, one thousand six hundred and sixty-seven, ratifie, confirm and grant unto Jan Everts, Jan Damen, Albert Cornelissen, Paulus Verbeeck, Michael Enyle, Thomas Lamberts, Tunis Gisberts Bogart, and Joris Jacobsen, as patentees for and on behalf of themselves and their associates, the freeholders and inhabitants of the town of Breucklen, their heirs, successors, and assigns forever, a certain tract of land, together with the several parcels of land which then were or thereafter should be purchased or procured for and on behalf of the said town, whether from the native Indian proprietors, or others within the bounds and limitts therein sett forth and expressed, that is to say, the said town is bounded westward on the further side of the land of Mr. Paulus Verbeeck, from whence stretching south-east they go over the hills, and so eastward along by the said hills to a south-east point, which takes in all the lotts behind the swamp, from which said lotts they run north-west to the River, and extend to the farm on the other side of the hills heretofore belonging to Hans Hansen, over against Keak or Look-out, including within the said bounds and limitts all the lots and plantations, lying and being at the Gauwanes, Bedford, Wallabocht and the ferry, all which said parcells and tract of land and premises within the bound

and limitts aforementioned described, and all or any plantation or plantations thereupon, from henceforth are to be, appertain and belong to the said town of Breucklyn, Together with all harbour, havens, creeks, quarries, woodland, meadow ground, reed land or valley of all sorts, pastures, marshes, waters, rivers, lakes, fishing, hawking, hunting, fowling, and all other profits, commodities, emoluments and hereditaments to the said lands and premises within the bounds and limitts set forth, belonging or in any wise appertaining, and with all to have freedom of commonage for range and feed of cattle and horses, into the woods with the rest of their neighbours, as also one third part of a certain neck of meadow ground or valley, called Seller's neck, lying and being within the town of Jamaica, purchased by the said town of Jamaica from the Indians, and sold by them unto the inhabitants of Breucklen aforesaid, as it was laid out aforesaid, and divided by their mutual consent and order of the Governor. To have and to hold unto them the said patentces and their associates, their heirs, successors and assigns forever, as by the said patent reference being thereunto had, doth, fully and at large appear. And further, in and by the said patent, the said Governor, Richard Nicolls, Esq. did erect the said tract of land into a township by the name of Breucklen aforesaid, by that name and style to be distinguished and known in all bargains, sales, deeds, records and writings whatsoever, and whereas the present inhabitants and freeholders of the town of Breucklen aforesaid, have made their application to me for a confirmation of the aforesaid tract of land and premises in their quiet and peaceable possession and enjoyment of the aforesaid land and premises. Now Know Ye, That I, the said Thomas Dongan, by virtue of the commission and

authority derived unto me, and power in me residing, have granted, ratified and confirmed, and by these presents do grant, ratifie and confirm, unto Teunis Gysberts, Thomas Lamberts, Peter Jansen, Jacobus Vander Water, Jan Dame, Joris Jacobs, Jeronimus Rapalle, Daniel Rapalle, Jan Jansen, Adrian Bennet, and Michael Hanse, for and on the behalf of themselves and the rest of the present freeholders and inhabitants of the said town of Breucklen, their heirs and assigns forever, all and singular the afore-recited tract and parcels of land set forth, limited and bounded as aforesaid; together with all and singular, the houses, messnages, tenements, fencings, buildings, gardens, orchards, trees, woods, underwoods, pastures, feedings, common of pasture, meadows, marshes, lakes, ponds, creeks, harbors, rivers, rivulets, brooks, streams, highways and easements whatsoever, belonging or in any wise appertaining to any of the afore-recited tract or parcels of land and divisions, allotments, settlements made and appropriated before the day and date hereof. To Have and To Hold, all and singular, the said tract or parcels of land and premises, with their, and every of their appurtenances unto the said Tunis Gysberts, Thomas Lamberts, Peter Jansen, Jacobus Vander Water, Joris Jacobs, Jeronimus Rappalle, Daniel Rappalle, Jan Jansen, Adrian Bennet and Michael Hanse, for and on behalf of themselves and the present freeholders and inhabitants of the town of Breucklen, their and every of their heirs and assigns forever, as tenants in common without any let, hindrance, molestation, right of survivorship or otherwise, to be holden in free and common socage according to the tenure of East Greenwich, in the county of Kent, in his Majesty's kingdom of England. Yielding, rendering and paying therefor yearly, and every year, on the five

and twentyeth day of March, forever, in lieu of all services and demands whatsoever, as a quit rent to his most sacred Majesty aforesaid, the heirs and successors, at the city of New-York, twenty bushels of good merchantable wheat. In testimony whereof, I have caused these presents to be entered and recorded in the Secretary's office, and the seal of the Province to be hereunto affixed this thirteenth day of May, Anno. Domini, one thousand six hundred and eighty-six, and in the second year of his Majesty's reign.

THOMAS DONGAN."

Quit rents to the following amounts and at the following periods have been paid on the Brooklyn patents.

June 8, 1713. Paid to Benjamin Van de Water, Treasurer, the sum of £96 7s 1d. for upwards of 16 years quit rent.

April 6, 1775. Charles Debevoise, Collector of the town of Brooklyn, paid to the Receiver General of the Colony of New-York, 20 bushels of wheat, for one year's quit rent, due from said town.

November 9, 1786. Fernandus Suydam, and Charles C. Doughty, two of the Trustees of the town of Brooklyn, paid to the Treasurer of the State of New-York, the sum of £105 10s. in full for arrears of quit rent due from the said town.

TOWN RIGHTS AND FERRIES.

The difference between this town and the city of New-York relative to the water rights of the former, has deservedly excited the attention and interest of our inhabitants, as involving property to a great amount, and unjustly withholding from our town a revenue which would enable it to improve with almost unparalleled rapidity. In order that each

person so interested may form a correct opinion of the subject matter in dispute, the Compiler has thought proper, under this head, to lay before them the foundations of the claims on both sides of the question.

October 18, 1667. In the reign of Charles 2d. Richard Nicolls, Esq. Governor General of the Province of New-York, under his Royal Highness James, the Duke of York, &c. afterwards James 2d. of England, granted to the inhabitants of this town a confirmatory patent, acknowledging that they were rightfully, legally and by authority in possession of the property and privileges they then enjoyed. The patent after naming the patentees, and describing the bounds of the town, and binding by the *River* and not by high water mark, proceeds to say, "Together with all *havens, harbors, creeks, marshes, waters, rivers, lakes, fisheries.*" "Moreover, I do hereby give, ratify and confirm unto the said patentees and their associates, their heirs, successors and assigns, all the *rights and privileges* belonging to a town within this government." Under this patent the town of Brooklyn justly claims the land between high and low water mark on their shore, in opposition to the claims of the Corporation of the city of New-York; and an equal right with them to erect ferries between the town of Brooklyn and the city of New-York.

It does not appear that there was any adverse claim on the part of New-York, until the 27th of April, 1686, *nineteen years* after the date of the Brooklyn patent, when the Corporation of New-York obtained a charter from Governor Dongan, by which the ferries were granted to them, but not a word mentioned about the land between high and low water mark on the Brooklyn side. From the reading of this charter it appears as if the Gover-

nor was doubtful as to his right even to grant the ferry, for it contains an express saving of all the rights of all other persons, bodies politic and corporate, their heirs, successors and assigns, in as ample a manner, as if that charter had not been made.

May 13, 1686, The freeholders and inhabitants of Brooklyn somewhat apprehensive of encroachments by New-York, obtained from Governor Dongan, a patent under the seal of the Colony, fully confirming that granted them by Governor Nicolls.

May 6, 1691. An act was passed by the Governor, Council and General Assembly of the Colony of New-York, "for settling, quieting and confirming unto the cities, towns, manors, and freeholders within this Province, their several grants, patents, and rights respectively." By this act the freeholders and inhabitants of the town of Brooklyn were confirmed in the rights they possessed and enjoyed under their two several patents.

October 12, 1694. The Corporation of New-York, not thinking their foothold on the Brooklyn side sufficiently secure, purchased of one William Morris, for no specific consideration, a piece of land in Brooklyn near the ferry. This deed is the foundation of the Corporation claim to their land in the village of Brooklyn. A copy of which will be found in the appendix marked with the letter A.

Bent on unjustly wresting from the town of Brooklyn their water right, the Corporation on the 19th of April, 1708, obtained from Governor Cornbury, a man infamous for his vices, and disregard of justice, another charter, in which they came out more openly than before, and claimed the *vacant* land to high water mark, on Nassau Island, reserving to the inhabitants of Brooklyn the right of transporting themselves in their own boats ferriage free,

to and from New-York.⁽⁶⁾ By this charter, no matter how ample soever they might have considered it at the time, they obtained nothing but *vacant* land to high water mark; that is the land which was not already granted, and in the possession of some other person or persons, which was not the fact as to the land on the Brooklyn side, it being vested in the patentees, their heirs, successors and assigns forever; so that the only power or authority remaining in the Governor, was to grant the Corporation of New-York, the privilege of buying the water rights of the inhabitants of Brooklyn. But that would not answer their purpose, for those rights could be bought cheaper of Governor Cornbury, than they could of this town.

This proceeding on the part of New-York stimulated the inhabitants of Brooklyn to obtain from the Colonial Legislature in 1721, an act confirming their patent rights.

To obviate the effects of this law, and strengthen the charter of Cornbury, which from the circumstances under which it was obtained, the Corporation feared was invalid, on the 15th of January, 1730, they procured from Governor John Montgomerie, a new charter confirming their pretended right to the land to *high water mark on our shore*.⁽⁷⁾

(6) Although the bounds of this grant commence about 250 yards in the town of Bushwick, the Corporation of New-York have made no claim to land beyond the Wallabout.

(7) There was some peculiar circumstances attending the consummation of this charter, which the Compiler thinks ought to be known. A short time previous to obtaining the charter, the Common Council of the City of New-York resolved that the sum of £1400 was necessary for the procuring of that instrument; £1000 of which sum they determined to raise immediately by a loan on interest for one year; which they accordingly did, and gave a mortgage for that amount to James de Lancey, Esq. dated January 14, 1730. Directly after the execution of this mortgage they resolved to address the Governor, "for the great favour and goodness shewn to this Corporation in granting their petition, in ordering and directing his Majesty's letters patent for a new charter and confirmation to this Corporation," and probably informing him that they

The grants from the Corporation of New-York, under their two charters for the water lots on the Brooklyn side, are very artfully and ingeniously drawn. By those grants are only conveyed "all the estate, right, title, interest, property, claim, and demand whatsoever, in law and equity" of them the said Corporation; and their covenant for quiet possession only extends to them and their successors, and not against any other persons lawfully claiming the premises. These grants, in order to save the Corporation harmless against the claims of Brooklyn, also contained a covenant to the following effect: "It is hereby covenanted, granted and agreed upon by and between the parties to these presents (that is, the Corporation of New-York and the person to whom they give the grant,) and the true intent and meaning hereof also is, and it is hereby declared, that this present grant, or any words, or anything in the same expressed, or contained shall not be adjudged, deemed, construed or taken to be a covenant or covenants on the part and behalf of the said parties of the first part, (that is, the Corporation of New-York) or their successors for any purpose or purposes whatsoever, but only to pass the estate, right, title, and interest, they have or may lawfully claim by virtue of their several charters, of in and to the said premises." Which covenant evidently shews a want of confidence in the validity of their title on the part of the Corporation.

October 14, 1732. An act was passed by the General Assembly of this Colony, "confirming unto

had obtained the money. The consequence was, that on the next day, January 15, 1730, the charter was completed; and on paying the £1000 was delivered to them on the 11th day of February, 1730, almost a month after its date. By which it appears that the Corporation of New-York still continued purchasing the right of the town of Brooklyn from the Colonial Governors. See list of Corporation Charters and grants, 1747.

the City of New-York its rights and privileges." By this act no addition was made to their former pretended rights.

November 14, 1753. The freeholders and inhabitants of this town appointed Jacobus Lefferts, Peter Vandervoort, Jacob Remsen, Rem Remsen, and Nicholas Vechte, Trustees, "to defend our patent where in any manner our liberties, privileges and rights in our patents specified is encroached, lessened or taken away by the commonalty of the city of New-York." A copy of the proceeding of the town meeting at which the above trustees were elected will be found in the appendix marked B.

Not satisfied with the encroachments they had made, the Corporation began to question the right of the inhabitants of Brooklyn to cross to and from New-York ferriage free in their own boats, and to carry over the inhabitants in those boats;—the result was, that in July, 1745, a suit was commenced by one of the inhabitants of Brooklyn, named Hendrick Remsen, against the Corporation of New-York, which was tried before a jury in Westchester county. A special verdict was found setting forth all its patents and charters, and among other things, that the road from which the said Hendrick Remsen ferried the inhabitants of Brooklyn to and from New-York, "then and long before was laid out for a public highway leading down to *low water mark* on the East River between the places aforesaid called the Wallabocht and the Red Hook on Nassau Island, and the jurors aforesaid upon their oath aforesaid, do further say, that the River called the East River, over which the said Hendrick did carry the persons and goods aforesaid, from the said lands between the Wallabocht and the Red Hook, is a large and public and navigable river used by his Majesty's ships and other ships and smaller vessels

employed in trade and commerce, and hath always been so used from the first settlement of this Colony." On argument judgment was rendered by the Supreme Court of this Colony in the month of October, 1775, in favour of Hendrick Remsen, that he recover his damages against the Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty of the city of New-York, and the sum of one hundred and eighteen pounds, fourteen shillings and ten pence half penny for his costs and charges. An appeal to the King and Council from this decision, was brought by the Corporation, which was not determined in consequence of the Revolutionary war. There is a tradition in this town that the Corporation of New-York were so apprehensive of this claim on the part of the town of Brooklyn, that in order to disengage Hendrick Remsen from the interest of the town, they gave him a house and lot of land near Coenties Slip, in the city of New-York. How far this tradition is correct, the Compiler is unable to say.—It appears however, that he about that time became in possession of such property, and the same remained in his family within the memory of some of our inhabitants.

Our two Patents are confirmed by the Constitution of this State, which confirms all grants of land within the State, made by the authority of the King of Great Britain or his predecessors, prior to the 14th of August, 1775.

The Compiler thinking it would not be uninteresting to his fellow citizens to see a statement of the amount received by the Corporation of New-York for quit rent on the water lots claimed by them, has given the following short statement.

The Commissioners of the Sinking Fund of the City of New-York have received, from August 23d, 1813, to Dec. 31, 1824.

For Water lot rents,	\$17,635 24
Commutation for water lot rents,	17,275 41
	<hr/>
	\$34,910 65

The Corporation of New-York during the present year 1824, have received for water lot rents the sum of - \$8,862 97

Within a short time the jurisdiction of the village of Brooklyn has been extended beyond low water mark, leaving the pretended right of soil still in the Corporation of New-York.⁽⁸⁾ August term, 1821, in the case of Udall vs. the Trustees of Brooklyn, the Supreme Court of this State decided that Kings County, of which the village of Brooklyn is part, includes all the wharves, docks, and other artificial erections in the East River, opposite to the City of New-York, though west of the natural low water mark on the Nassau or Long-Island shore ; and the jurisdiction of the village extends to the actual line of low water, whether formed by natural or artificial means. Same term, in the case of Stryker vs. the Mayor, &c. of the city of New-York, the Supreme Court decided that the city and county of New-York includes the whole of the Rivers and harbour adjacent to actual low water mark, on the opposite shores, as the same may be formed, from time to time, by docks, wharves and other permanent erections ; and although the jurisdiction of the city does not extend so as to include such wharves, or artificial erections, yet it extends over the ships and vessels floating on the water, though they be fastened to such wharves or docks.

(8) The jurisdiction of New-York by their first charter in 1686, was limited to low water mark around Manbattan Island ; but was extended to low water mark on the Brooklyn side by Governor Montgomery's charter in 1780.

April 9, 1824. The Legislature of the State of New-York in the act to amend the act entitled "an Act to incorporate and vest certain powers in the freeholders and inhabitants of the village of Brooklyn in the County of Kings," granted this town concurrent jurisdiction with the City of New-York in the service of process, in actions civil and criminal, on board of vessels attached to our wharves ; and in the act for the establishment of a Board of Health in the village of Brooklyn, authority is given to the said Board to remove all infected vessels from the wharves within the said village.

The ferries have been unavoidably, in some degree, taken into consideration when speaking of our town rights. The compiler will therefore confine himself to such historical facts, and laws, and such proceedings, passed and had by the Colonial and State legislatures as may relate particularly to them.

During the early years of this Colony, the old ferry was from near the foot of Joralemon-street, to the Breede Graft, now Broad-street, in the City of New-York. At that period a creek ran through the middle of Broad-street, up which the boats ascended to a ferry-house which is still standing.¹ At this time it is difficult to ascertain the exact period when the old ferry was established at its present situation on the Brooklyn side. In 1697, John Aeresen was ferry master.

It appears from the following order, that the Court of Sessions of Kings County, exercised some authority over the ferry between Brooklyn and New-York. October 7, 1690. "Whereas much inconvenience does arise by several negroes coming on this Island from New-York and other places, and from this Island to New-York. It is ordered,

that the ferrymen shall not bring or set over any negroes or slaves upon the Sabbath day, without a ticket from their masters."

Acts have been passed by the Colonial and State legislatures for the purpose of regulating the ferries between this town and the City of New-York, in the following chronological order :

November 2d, 1717, an act was passed, which was revived in the year 1726, and again in 1727. October 14, 1732. Another act was passed for the same purpose. By this act it was provided, " That the ferryman for the time being, shall not impose, exact, demand, or receive any rates or ferriage for any goods or things whatsoever, transported by any of the inhabitants living amongst the River, at or near the Ferry on Nassau-Island, in their own boats or canoes." provided that the same be their own goods or commodities. This act continued in force until the 28th of February, 1789, when another act was passed regulating the ferriage, and containing a similar proviso. April 9, 1813. The last mentioned law was re-enacted, with the same provision.

The winter previous to the prosecution of the suit between Hendrick Remsen, and the Corporation of the City of New-York, the inhabitants of Brooklyn made an attempt to obtain from the Colonial legislature, a further confirmation of some of their rights, particularly relating to the ferry ; on which application the following proceedings were had.

January 30, 1745—6. In General Assembly, a petition of the Trustees of the town of Brookland, in Kings County, in behalf of themselves, and the freeholders and inhabitants of the said township, was presented to the House and read, setting forth, That a great number of the inhabitants of the said township, living near the ferry from Nassau-Island to New-York, and having their chief dependence

of supporting their families by trading to the New-York markets, are by one act of the General Assembly, entitled, an act to regulate the ferry between the City of New-York and the Island of Nassau, and to establish the ferriage thereof, passed in the sixth year of his Majesty's reign, debarred from transporting their goods in their own vessels, to the said markets, which exposes them to very great hardships, difficulties and expences, and therefore humbly praying that they may have leave to bring in a bill to relieve them from the aforesaid hardships. Upon a motion of Major Van Horne, (of New-York) ordered, that the Clerk of this house serve the Corporation of the City of New-York, with a copy of the said petition forthwith.

In General Assembly, April 12, 1746, Mr. Abraham Lott, according to leave, presented to the house, a bill entitled, "an act to repeal an act therein mentioned, so far as it relates to the freeholders and inhabitants of the township of Brooklyn, in Kings County, within this colony;" which was read the first time, and ordered a second reading.—Ordered, that the Corporation of the City of New-York, be served with a copy of the said bill.

April 18, 1746. In General Assembly. The bill entitled, an act to repeal an act therein mentioned, so far as it relates to the freeholders and inhabitants of the township of Brooklyn, in Kings County, within this colony, being offered to be read a second time, Capt. Richards (of New-York) moved, that the second reading of the said bill might be deferred until the next meeting of the House, after the first day of June next; which was agreed to by the House and ordered accordingly.

June 20, 1746. In General Assembly. A petition of the Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty, of the City of New-York, was presented to the House

and read, setting forth, That the Corporation having been served with a copy of a bill now before this House, entitled, an act to repeal an act therein mentioned, so far as it relates to the freeholders and inhabitants of the township of Brooklyn, in Kings County, within this colony; do conceive that the passing the said Bill into a law, may affect their ancient rights and freehold, and therefore humbly praying that they may be heard by their Counsel against the said bill, at the bar of this House, on Friday next, ordered, that the Trustees of the township of Brooklyn, be heard by their counsel in support of the said Bill, at the bar of this house, on Friday next, and that Mr. William Smith appear for them. Ordered, that the Clerk of this house serve the parties with a copy of these orders forthwith.

June 27, 1746. In General Assembly. The House being informed, that the Corporation of the City of New-York were attending with their counsel to be heard against the Bill; and that the Trustees of the township of Brooklyn, were also attending with their Counsel to be heard in support of the said Bill; both parties were called in, and the counsel on both sides having been fully heard, for and against the said Bill, they were directed to withdraw; and the Bill being read the second time, the question was put,—whether the said Bill should be committed, and carried in the affirmative in the manner following:—Affirmative, Messrs. Lott, Chambers, Stillwell, Livingston, Haring, Cornell, Abraham Lott, Lecount, Bradt, Nicoll, Hardenbergh, and Gale 12.—Negative, Messrs. Richards, Cruger, Clarkson, Van Horne, Philipse, Morris, Verplank, and Thomas, 8.

July 4, 1746. In General Assembly, the engrossed Bill entitled, an act to repeal an act therein men-

tioned, so far as it relates to the freeholders and inhabitants of the township of Brooklyn, in Kings County, within this colony, was read the third time, and upon Mr. Speaker's putting the question, whether the Bill should pass, a motion was made by Col. Morris in the words following, viz.—As this Bill has been already ordered to be engrossed, by a majority of the House, and the question that now is put is, whether this Bill shall pass; I must beg leave to give my reasons for opposing its passage. The first is, it is alledged by this bill that the people of Brooklyn had a right, prior to the act passed in the year 1732, which was not proved, nor attempted upon the hearing before this house; but if we pass this Bill, we allow that right to be proved, and then it becomes our allegation, which I conceive, inconsistent with the honor and justice of this house, to alledge any thing in such a case, but what has been proved. The second is, it implies that the act in 1732, took away unjustly, a right from the people of Brooklyn, that they were entitled to. Thirdly, it implies, that the house have fixed the two points before mentioned, and then it will necessarily follow, that we have considered the rights of the Corporation,⁽⁹⁾ as well as those of the people of Brooklyn; that we have not, I appeal to the house, who must allow, that no such right ever appeared to us, at least as a House, and for us to declare certain facts by a Bill, which has never been proved, will be doing, what I conceive, we ought not to do, if we make justice and equity the rule of our conduct. For these reasons, I move, that the Bill may be rejected. The question being put

(9) For what purpose was it, that the Corporation's Counsel was heard at the bar of the House, if not to advance and support their rights? If it was not done at that time, the plain inference would be, that they were aware they had no right.

thereon it was carried in the negative, in the manner following, viz.—For the negative, Messrs. Chambers, Lott, Cornell, Hardenbergh, A. Lott, Bradt, Lecount, Gale, and Haring, 9. Affirmative, Messrs. Cruger, Morris, Richards, Van Horne, Clarkson, Verplank, Philipse, and Thomas, 8.

Resolved, That the Bill do pass. Ordered, that Colonel Haring, and Mr. Hardenbergh do carry the Bill to the Council and desire their concurrence. By which it appears that it was considered by the House, as well as subsequently by the Supreme Court, that the right of the town was sufficiently proved, notwithstanding the assertions of Colonel Morris.

This Bill by *some means* was stifled in the Council,⁽¹⁰⁾ and never became a law.

During the Revolution the Old ferry was kept by Messrs. Van Winkle, and Bukett; at which period the usual charge for crossing was six pence for each passenger.

August 1, 1795. The ferry from the foot of Main-street, Brooklyn, to the foot of Catharine-street, New-York, commonly called the New ferry, was established by Messrs. William Furman and Theodosius Hunt, lessees from the Corporation of the City of New-York.

In consequence of the prevalence of the Yellow fever in Brooklyn, in the month of August, 1809, the old ferry was removed to the foot of Joralemon street, and the boats plied from there to Whitehall, New-York.

On the 4th day of March, 1814. The legislature of this State passed an act allowing William

(10) The Council was appointed by the King's mandamus and sign manual, and all their privileges and powers were contained in the Governor's instructions. The tenure of their places was extremely precarious. See Smith's History of New-York, p. 364.

Cutting and others his associates, to charge four cents for each passenger crossing in the Steam-boat to be by them placed on the Old ferry. Previous to this, the fare was two cents for each passenger. May, 1814, the Steam boat commenced plying on the old ferry between Brooklyn and New-York.

This Ferry Company derive their interest in the old or Fulton ferry, from a lease executed January 24th, 1814, by the Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty of the City of New-York, to Robert Fulton and William Cutting. The rent reserved by the Corporation on this lease is \$4000 per annum for the first 18 years, and \$4500 per annum for the remaining 7 years.⁽¹¹⁾ It is a difficult matter to speak correctly of the present income of this ferry. At its first establishment the dividends were made on a capital estimated at \$45,000, divided into shares of \$1000 each, and were made at the rate of 5 per cent. for six months and what remained after this 5 per cent. taken out, formed the surplus dividend. From May 1814, to November 1815, the regular dividends on one share amounted to \$157 11½, and during the same period the surplus dividend amounted to \$228 21½, making a dividend of \$385 33, on one share for about 18 months equal to about 25 per cent. per annum.

At the Session of the Legislature in the winter of 1818, the Corporation of New-York presented a petition praying that they might have the regulation of the rates of ferriage between this town and the city of New-York—against which the Trustees of the village of Brooklyn, and the inhabitants of this town strongly remonstrated, stating that “they had full confidence that the Legislature of

(11) The Corporation of New-York, during the year 1824, have received from the ferries, the sum of D12,003 75—more than 3-4ths of which sum is from the ferries on the East River.

this state would never increase the rates of ferriage, nor permit the same to be increased, beyond what is necessary to support the ferries in the best manner; they therefore prayed that the Legislature would not surrender to the Corporation of New-York a right, which had been reserved by the Legislature, and which the petitioners deemed of the greatest importance to the inhabitants of Nassau-Island."

ROADS AND PUBLIC LANDING PLACES.

This town appears to have entered early into the contest respecting roads. There are many instances on record previous to 1683, of the Constable of Brooklyn being ordered to repair the roads, and in case of neglect, fined; and in one instance he was ordered by the Court not to depart until further order.

The main road, or as part of it is now called, Fulton-street, in the village of Brooklyn, was laid out March 28th, 1704, by Joseph Hageman, Peter Cortelyou, and Benjamin Vandewater, Commissioners, appointed by an act of the General Assembly of the colony of New-York, for the laying out, regulating, clearing and preserving of public highways in the colony. The record of this road is as follows:—"One publique, common and general highway, to begin ffrom *low water marke* at the ferry in the township of Broockland, in Kings county, and ffrom thence to run ffour rod wide up between the houses and lands of John Aerson, John Coe, and George Jacobs, and soe all along to Broockland towne aforesaid, through the lane that now is, and ffrom thence straight along a certaine lane to the Southward corner of John Van Couwenhoven's land, and ffrom thence straight to Bedfford as it is now staked out, to the lane where the house of Ben-

jamin Vandewater stands, and ffrom thence straight along through Bedfford towne to Bedfford lane, running between the lands of John Garretse, Dorlant and Claes Barnse, to the rear of the lands of the said Cloyse, and ffrom thence southerly to the old path now in use, and soe all along said path to Philip Volkertses land, taking in a little slip of said Philip's land on the south corner, soe all along said road by Isaack Greg's house to the Fflackbush new lotts ffence, and soe all along said ffence to the eastward, to the north-east corner of Eldert Lucas's land, lying within the New lotts, of Fflattbush aforesaid, being ffour rod wide all along, to be and continue forever."

This road or "king's highway," as it was then called, leading from the ferry to the old Dutch Church, or Brooklyn parish, was the cause of much contention. At the April term of the General Sessions of the Peace for Kings County, in 1721, indictments were found for encroaching on the "common high way of the King, leading from the ferry to the Church at Brookland," against John Rapalje, Hans Bergen and James Harding, and others.—By which indictments it appears that the road should have been four rods wide.

These indictments appear to have been predicated as well on the following application of John Rapalje and Hans Bergen, as on complaints from several of the inhabitants :

"Fflatbush, April 19, 1721. John Rapalje and Hans Bergen of the fferry, desires of the grand jury that the Commissioners now being should be presented for not doing their duty in laying out the king's highway according to ye law, being the King's highway is too narrow from the ferry to one Nicalus Cowenhoven, living at Brooklyn and if all our neighbours will make ye road according to

law, then ye said John Rapalje and Hans Bergen, is willing to do the same as aforesaid, being they are not willing to suffer more than their neighbours. As witness our hands the day and year first above written.

JAN RAPELJE,
HANS BERGEN."

Some of the persons indicted considering themselves aggrieved, and others who feared being placed in the same situation, applied to the Colonial Legislature, and July 27th, 1721, obtained the passage of a law to "continue the common road or king's highway, from the ferry, towards the town of Breuckland, on the Island of Nassau, in the Province of New-York," with the following preamble. "Whereas several of the inhabitants on the ferry, on the Island of Nassau, by their petition preferred to the General Assembly, by setting forth, that they have been molested prosecutions, occasioned by the contrivance and instigations of ill and disaffected persons to the neighbourhood, who would encroach upon the buildings and fences that have been made many years, alledging the road was not wide enough, to the great damage of several of the old inhabitants, on the said ferry; the said road as it now is, has been so for at least these sixty years past, without any complaint, either of the inhabitants or travellers."

The law then proceeds to establish the road "forever," as it then was, from the ferry upwards to the town of Breuckland, as far as the swinging gate of John Rapalje, just above the house and land belonging to James Harding. These proceedings will readily account for Fulton-street, in the present village of Brooklyn being so narrow and crooked in many places.^j

The point however to which the Compiler wishes to draw the attention of his fellow citizens, is to the existence and location of several public highways and landing-places in this town which at present are known to very few.

There is a public landing-place at or near the mills of Nehemiah Denton, Esq. and a public highway leading thereto.—The record of which is as follows :—“One common highway to Gawanus mill, to begin ffrom the north-east corner of Leffert Peterses fence, and soe along the roade westerly, as it is now in use to the lane yt parts the lands of Hendrick Vechte, and Abraham Brower, and Nicholas Brower, and soe all along said lane as it is now in fence to the house of Jurian Collier, and from thence all along the roade now in use to the said Gowanos mill, being in all four rod wide to the said lane ; and that there be a convenient landing place for all persons whatsoever, to begin ffrom the sonthermost side of said Gowanus mill house, and ffrom said house to run ffour rod to the southward, ffor the transportation of goods and the commodious passing of travellers ; and that said highway to said Gowanos mill ffrom said house of said Jurian Collier shall be but two rod only and where it is now in use ; said common highway to be and continue forever ; and ffurther that the fence and gate that now stands upon the entrance into said mill neck, ffor the inclosing and securing of said neck, shall soe remaine and be alwayes kept soe inclosed with a fence and hanging gate ; and the way to said mill to be thorow that gate only and to be allwayes shnutt or put to by all persons that passes thorow.” The Commissioners laid out the above road and landing place, March 28th, 1704.

In 1709, the Commissioners laid out another road and landing place, at or near the mill of John C. Freeke, Esq. The record of which is as fol-

lows :—" One common highway to begin ffrom the house of Jurian Collier to the New Mill of Nicholas Brower, now sett up on Gowanus mill neck soe called, as the way is now in use along said neck to said mill to be of two rod wide ; and that there shall be a landing place by said mill in the most convenient place ffor the transportation of goods and the commodious passing of travellers ; and said highway and landing place to be, remaine and continue forever."

This town has a public landing place seven rods in length, near the foot of what is now called District-street, in the village of Brooklyn.—This landing place is mentioned in the record of a road three rods wide, leading to the same, which record the Compiler omits inserting in consequence of its length and the multitude of entries connected therewith.

It is believed by many, and not without very good reason, that this town has a public landing place a short distance to the North of the Old or Fulton ferry, and which landing place is now in the possession of the Corporation of New-York.

There is a very distinct tradition of a road to near where this landing place is supposed to have been, at the foot of which road was the public slaughter house, where the butchers of Brooklyn dressed their meats. The road referred to, came out where the house of the Fire Engine No. 4 now stands, and the existence of that road gives the town its title to that small piece of ground.

COMMON LANDS, AND THE DIVISION THEREOF.

The town having acquired so great an extent of Common land by the purchase of 1670, from the Indians, the inhabitants thought proper to take some order for the division and defending thereof, together with their other lands—accordingly, " at

a Town meeting held the 25th day of February, 169 $\frac{2}{3}$, att Breuklyn, in Kings County. Then resolved to divide their common lands and woods into three parts, in manner following to witt:

1. All the lands and woods after, Bedford and Cripplebush, over the hills to the path of Newlotts shall belong to the inhabitants and freeholders of the Gowanis, beginning from Jacob Brewer and soe to the uttermost bounds of the limits of New-Utrecht.

2. And all the lands and woods that lyes betwixt the abovesaid path and the highway from the ferry towards Flatbush, shall belong to the freeholders and inhabitants of Bedford and Cripplebush.

3. And all the lands that lyes in common after the Gowanis, betwixt the limits and bounds of Flatbush and New Utrecht shall belong to the freeholders and inhabitants of Brooklyn, fred. neck, the ferry and the Wallabout." This proceeding of the Town meeting was allowed of by the Court of Sessions, held at Flatbush, on the 10th day of May, 1693.

The following will serve to shew the manner in which the inhabitants of this town elected the Trustees of their common lands, and the duties of those Trustees. "Att a towne meeting held this 29th day off Aprill, 1699, at Breucklyn, by order off Justice Machiel Hanssen, ffor to chose townsmen ffor to order all townes busines and to deffend their limitts and bounds and to dispose and lay out sum part thereof in lotts, to make lawes and orders ffor the best off the inhabitants, and to raise a small tax ffor to defray the towne charges, now being or hereafter to come, to receive towns revenues and to pay townes debts, and that with the advice off the Justices off this said towne standing the space and time off two years. Chosen ffor that purpose by plural-

itie off votes. Benjamin Vande Water, Joores Hanssen, Jan Garretse Dorlant.

By order of inhabitants afforesaid,
J. VANDE WATER, Clarke."

These proceedings were recorded by order of the Court of Sessions, on the 9th day of May, 1699.

The following proceeding is curious, setting forth the ancient practice of tradesmen cutting down timber in the public woods, and the regulations made respecting the same. It appears that directly after the Trustees were chosen by the above meeting they together with the Justices, held the following meeting. "Att a meeting held this 29th day off Aprill, (1699) in Breucklyn, Present, Benjamin Vande Water, Jooris Hanssen, Jan Geritse Dorlant, being choisen townsmen in the presence and with the advice off the Justices of this towne.

Considering the greate inconvenience, lose and intrest that the inhabitants off this towne have by reason that the tradesmen here living in this towne doe ffall and cutt the best trees and sully the best of our woods and sell the worke thereoff made the most part to others living withoute the towne, and that the shoemakers and others doe cutt and fall all the best treese ffor the barke, and the wood lyes and rott, and that some persons doe cutt and ffall trees for timber and ffensing stuff, and leave the trees in the woods soe cutt until they are spoilt, and that people off other towns come and cutt and fall trees ffor timber, ffensing stuff, and ffire woods, and transport the same away out off our townes bounds and limitts, and that without leave or consent off the towne, soe that in the time off ffew yeares there shall bee no woods leaved ffor the inhabitants ffor timber or ffensing stuff to the ruine off the said towne. It is therefore ordered, That ffrom the date hereoff no

tradesman shall make any worke ffor to sell to others without thee towne, ffrom wood soe cutt as afforesaid as only ffrom old wood.

That no shoemaker or others shall cutt or ffall any trees ffor to barke in the common woods uppon the penaltie off five pounds ffor every tree soe cutt.

That no men shall leave any timber, ffensing, stuffe, or other wood in the woods longer as six weeks affter itt is cutt, uppon the penaltie, that itt shall be ffree ffor others to take and carry the same away as theire owne wood. And that iff any one off other townes shall be ffounden within our townes limitts to cutt or carry away any sorts off woods ffor timber, ffensing stuff or ffire wood, that itt shall bee ffree ffor any one off this towne to take it away and to take out writ to arrest, or to apprehend such offender or offenders presently, and that the Justices off this towne shall answer the action as iff itt were done by theire owneselves.⁽¹²⁾ These proceedings were also recorded by order of the Court of Sessions,

“Towne meeting held this 5th day off May, 1701, by order off Justices Cornelis Sebringh and Machiell Hanssen. We the major part off the ffreeholders off Breucklyn doe hereby nominate, constitute and appoint Capt. Jooris Hanssen, Jacob Hanssen and Cornelis Van Duyn, to bee trustees of our Common and undivided lands, and to deffend and maintaine the rights and privileges off our General pattent, as well within as without.”

“Towne meeting held this 2d day off February, 1701-2, by order off Justice Cornelis Sebringh.

(12) The idea intended to be conveyed by this regulation, I understand to be, that the Justices of the town of Brooklyn shall have cognizance of the offence, as much as if the offenders resided within the town.

Purposed iff the order off Bedford, made the 12th day off April, 1697, shall bee confirmed concerning the lying out of the common or undivided lands or that the said land shall bee lyed out according to the last tax, concerning the deffending off our limitts.

Resolved by the ffreeholders aforesaid, that the chosen townsmen shall ley out the commens according as by the said order off Bedford was concluded, with the first opportunitie, and that all the lotts joyning to the common woods shall be surveyed according to their grants."

The following Resolution was passed for defending those inhabitants to whom portions of the Common lands were allotted, in their enjoyment of the same. "Att a Towne meeting held att Brookland, in Kings County, this 14th day of March, 1701-2. Present, Machiel Hanssen, Cornelis Sebringh, and Hendrick Vechten, Esquires, Justices.—Resolved, by the major part of the freeholders of the said towne of Brookland, that every man that has now a right, lott, or lotts laid out in the quondam Common and undivided lands of Brookland aforesaid, shall forever free liberty have for egress or regress to his said lotts for fetching off wood or otherwise, over all or any of the said lott or lotts of the said freeholders in the lands aforesaid. And further, that if any of the said freeholders shall at any time or times hereafter, come by any loss or trouble, cost or charges by lawe or otherwise, of, for or concerning the title of any of their said lott or lotts, by any person or persons, either within the township of Brookland afforesaid, or without, that it shall be defended and made goode, (if lost) att all the proper costs and charges of all the freeholders of said towne equally."

It appears that all the Common lands of this town had been divided among the freeholders, and a portion annexed to each house in the town.—A deed dated the 17th of April, 1705, after conveying a house and lot of land in this town, conveys “alsoe all the rights and priviledges in the common woodlands of the towne of Broockland aforesaid, to said house, belonging as per record of said towne may appear.”⁽¹³⁾

These lands, in the month of February, 1701-2, were surveyed by Pieter Corteljen and S. Clowes, two surveyors, and divided by them into three divisions. The first or west division consisted of 62 lots, containing about 5 acres each, about 310 acres. The second or middle division of 62 lots, containing about 10 acres each, about 620 acres; and the third or east division also of 62 lots, containing about 10 acres each, about 620 acres.—Total number of acres about 1550.

DIFFERENCES AS TO BOUNDS.

The difference between this town and the city of New-York, having been treated of under the head of Town Rights and Ferries, the compiler will confine himself to the disputes which formerly existed between this town, and the towns of Bushwick, Flatbush and New-Utrecht, respecting their bounds.

The following proceeding relates generally to the defence and settling of the limits of this town.

“Towne meeting held this 7th day of February, 1701-2, by order of Hendrick Vechten, Justice.—The Justice Hendrick Vechten, brings in that the townes men were nott well authorised concerninge the lying out and deffending of our bounds by reason that they have no power to compounde or

(13) The records referred to, together with all our other town records were destroyed during the Revolution.

agree with any of the neighboring townes, &c.— These are therefore, that the freeholders and inhabitants doe give full power to the said Intrusties, for to agree and compoude with any of the neighbour townes concerning our bounds, and all what our said Intrusties shall doe and agree with them, we shall stand to itt.” This proceeding was recorded by order of the Court of Sessions, on the 13th of May, 1702.

DIFFERENCE WITH BUSHWICK.

The difference as to the bounds of these two towns seems generally to have been contested between individuals. The following is the only general order on record respecting the same :

At a Court of Sessions, held at Flatbush for Kings County, May 10, 1699. “Uppon the desire of the inhabitants of Breucklyn, that according to use and order every three yeare the limmits betweene towne and towne must be runn, that a warrant or order may be given, that upon the 17th day off May, the line and bounds betwixt said townes of Brooklyn and Boswyck, shall be runn according to their pattents or agreements.” Ordered, “That an order should be past according to their request.”

DIFFERENCE WITH FLATBUSH.

The dispute between this town and Flatbush, respecting their bounds, appears to have been of more importance than that with any other place, excepting New-York.

At a Court of Sessions, held for the West Riding of Yorkshire, upon Long-Island, the 18th of December, 1678, the following order was made :

“There being some difference between the townes of Flat Bush and Breucklyn concerning their

bounds, the which they are both willing to refer to Captain Jaques Corteleou and Captain Richard Stillwell to decide. The Court doth approve thereof, and order their Report to be determinative."

Messrs. Cortelyou and Stillwell complied with the requisition of the above order as will appear by the following report: but subsequent disputes shew that the same was not "determinative."

"To the worshipfull Court of Sessions, now sitting at Gravesend, June 21, 1683. These may certifie that in obedience to an order from said Court, and by consent of both towns of Breucklyn and Flattbush, to runn the line betwixt the said townes which are we underwritten have done and marked the trees betwixt towne and towne, as wittnesse our hands the daye and yeare above written.

JACQUES CORTELYOU,
RICHARD STILLWELL."

It appears by the following Certificate, that a subsequent survey was made in 1684, of the division line between this town and Flatbush.

"To satisfie whom itt may concerne, that I being with Mr. Jacobus Cortlandt, about the twentieth day off November, 1684, imploied by Breuckland and Fflackbush, to vew and run out the line betweene the two towns to the south of the hills found that the line run fformerly by Capts. Jaques, Cortelyou and Mr. Stillwell, is right and just, which wee both being agreed, gave in our approbation of the same.

PHILIP WELLS, Surveyor."

Staaten-Island, in the County of Rich- }
mond, this 4th day of Aprill, 1687." }

The above Certificate was recorded by order of several of the inhabitants of Brooklyn.

At a Court of Sessions for Kings County, held the 4th day of October, 1687, the following proceeding was had:

“Complaint off Jan Oake, and Cornelis Barduff, authorised by the inhabitants of Fflackbush being read against Pieter Cronwer, concerning the building uppon the land in question, betwixt Breucklyn and Fflackbush, Itt is ordered, that none off the partys shall meddle themselves with the said land before the question off the said land shall be finished.”

December 4, 1689. Jooris Bergen, Jan Dorlant and H. Claes Vechte, Commissioners of this town, together with Jurrian Bries, Constable, granted to Jeronimus Remsen, a piece of land lying at Bedford, in lieu of a piece of land which they had formerly sold him, lying at the Port or entrance, and which was claimed by the town of Flatbush.

At a town meeting, held in this town the 11th day of April, 1702, by order of Justices Machiel Hanssen, and Cornelis Seberingh; it was

“Purposed to choise townsmen, in place off George Hanssen, Jacob Hanssen, and Cornelis Van Duyn, by cause theire times being past the 29th off this instant. Resolved to prolong the old townsmen’s time to the twenty-fifth off May next, by reason they are in action off lawe with them off Fflackbush, to be tryed this May Court.”

The differences between these two towns have been amicably settled, and proper monuments placed on the boundary lines, to prevent, if possible, all future disputes.

DIFFERENCE WITH NEW-UTRECHT.

February 14, 1702. George Hansen, Jacob Hansen and Cornelius Van Duyn, Trustees on the part of the town of Brooklyn, and Cornelius Van Brunt,

Peter Cortelyou, and Aert Van Pelt, Trustees on the part of the town of New-Utrecht, entered into an agreement, which, after setting forth the said Trustee's powers to enter into the same, proceeds to say, "that the courses and lines hereafter specified shall be the exact bounds between the said two towns of Brookland and New Utrecht and soe to continue to perpetuity without any alteration; viz. The bounds to begin in the sloott or pond lying and being by and between the house of Agyes Vandyke, of the said towne of Brookland and the house of Thomas Sharax, of the said towne of New-Utrecht, where the water runs into the salt water River, by a certaine fence from thence stretching away south-east one degree southerly, two hundred eighty and eight English rod, to a winter white oake tree markt on the south and north-west side; and from thence running east eight and twenty degrees northerly to a white oake tree, being on the east side of the path leading to New-Utrecht aforesaid, to the Gowanos soe called in the township of Brookland abovesaid, said tree being markt on two sides, and being formerly the old markt tree betweene the said townes, &c."*

At the time of the execution of the above-mentioned agreement, the Trustees of the town of Brooklyn, gave a bond to the Trustees of the town of New-Utrecht, in the sum of one thousand pounds "currant money of New-Yorke."—The condition of which Bond or obligation was, "That if the above bounden George Hansen, Jacob Hansen and Cornelius Van Duyne, severally and their severall heires and assigns, doe and shall from time to time and at all times hereafter, well and truly observe, performe and keepe, all and every the covenants, articles of agreements, which on their and every of their parts, are or ought to be observed, performed

and kept, contained and specified in and by certain articles of agreements of the date hereof and made betweene the above bounden George Hansen, Jacob Hansen and Cornelius Van Duyn of the one part, and the above-named Cornelius Van Brunt, Peter Cortilleon and Aert Van Pelt of the other part, of, in and concerning the limmits and bounds of their townes pattents, and that in and by all things according to the true meaning of the said articles of agreement in such wise that no breache be made of the premises in said articles of agreement by the towne of Brookland aforesaid, at any time or times hereafter, then this obligation to be void and of none effect, otherwise to stand and remain in full force, virtue and power in law."

In the year 1797, a survey was made of all the bounds of this town, and a map thereof transmitted to the Surveyor General of this state.

REVOLUTIONARY INCIDENTS.

This town had a full share of the military operations during the Revolutionary war ; and was for a long time in the possession of the British army. It is covered with the remains of fortifications which were thrown up by the Americans⁽¹⁴⁾ and English for their defence against each other. In this town was fought the most sanguinary part of the battle of Long-Island, August 27, 1776 ; which took place on the retreat of the American army within their lines, and the attempt of a portion of them to ford the mill ponds at Gowanos ; in which attempt nearly the whole of a Regiment of young men from Maryland were cut off.

Many of the minor events connected with this battle, and the Revolutionary contest, are fast sink-

(14) The fortifications at Red Hook were erected by a Regiment of Continental troops, the night of April 8, 1776.

ing into the shades of oblivion ; the compiler has therefore thought proper to give place to the following piece of history, not with an idea, that he can immortalize any event which he relates ; but with a hope that his efforts will call forth some nobler pen to do justice to the memories of many of the almost forgotten heroes of those hard fought battles and arduous contests. In the battle above-mentioned, part of the British army marched down a lane or road leading from the Brush tavern to Gowanos, pursuing the Americans. Several of the American riflemen, in order to be more secure, and at the same time more effectually to succeed in their designs, had posted themselves in the high trees near the road. One of them, whose name is now partially forgotten, shot the English Major Grant ; in this he passed unobserved. Again he loaded his deadly rifle, and fired—another English officer fell. He was then marked, and a platoon ordered to advance, and fire into the tree ; which order was immediately carried into execution, and the rifleman fell to the ground, dead. After the battle was over, the two British officers were buried in a field, near where they fell, and their graves fenced in with some posts and rails, where their remains still rest. But for “ an example to the rebels,” they refused to the American rifleman the rites of sepulture ; and his remains were exposed on the ground till the flesh was rotted, and torn off his bones by the fowls of the air. After a considerable length of time, in a heavy gale of wind, a large tree was uprooted ; in the cavity formed by which, some friends to the Americans, notwithstanding the prohibition of the English, placed the brave soldier’s bones to mingle in peace with their kindred earth.

August 28, 1776. Before day break, in a very thick fog, General Washington retreated with his army from near the old ferry, Brooklyn, to New-York. As the last boat of the Americans left the shore, the fog dissipated, and the British made their appearance on the hills above the place of embarkation, when a shot or two from an American Battery on the hill near the house of Col. Henry Rutgers, in New-York, compelled the British to desist in their march to the ferry.

A short time after the retreat of the Americans, Captain Hale, of the American army, was dispatched by General Washington, to see if the English had taken possession of his camp at Brooklyn, and what their situation was. This unfortunate young officer was taken by the English and hung as a spy, without even a form of trial; and not allowed a clergyman at his execution. It is believed he was executed somewhere along the Brooklyn shore, to the south-west of the old ferry.^L In our pity for Major Andre, we have almost entirely lost sight of this meritorious officer, whose claims on our gratitude ought ever to be remembered, in proportion as his sufferings were greater than those of the former.

During the stay of the American army on Long-Island, the head quarters of General Washington were at the house on Brooklyn heights, now owned and occupied by Henry Waring, Esq.^M The house now owned and occupied by Tennis Joralemon, Esq. was used by the English as a Hospital during the Revolution, and in its vicinity, hundreds of British soldiers and sailors are buried.^N

Most of the records of this town were destroyed by the English when they came in possession of it after the battle of Long-Island.^O

In the month of November, 1776, one of the British prison ships, called the *Whitby*, was moored in the Wallaboght, near Remsen's mills. On board this vessel great mortality prevailed among the prisoners, and many of them died. Those of the prisoners who died from this ship, and from the others, which were afterwards brought to this place, were interred in the hill at the present Navy-Yard; where their remains were found, and in the year 1808, deposited in a vault erected for that purpose. March, 1777, two other prison ships anchored in the Wallaboght, one of which bore the name of *Good Hope*; which vessel in the month of October, in the same year, took fire and was burnt. The prisoners were saved and transferred to the other vessels.—The hull of this ship lies under a dock at the Navy Yard, in this town. In the month of February, 1778, on a Sunday afternoon, another British prison ship was burnt in the Wallaboght. The hull of this vessel lies in the mud in that Bay. 1778, the *Jersey* ship of the line, having arrived at New-York, was condemned as unfit for the service, and converted into a prison ship. As such she anchored in the Wallaboght during the month of April, in the same year, together with the *Falmouth* and *Hope*, for Hospital ships; where they remained till the close of the Revolutionary war.

October 22, 1779, An act of attainder was passed by the Legislature of this State, against John Rapalje, Esq. of this town, by which his property was confiscated to the use of the State. That part of his property lying within the bounds of the present village of Brooklyn, was on the 13th of July, 1784, sold by the Commissioners of Forfeitures, to Comfort, and Joshua Sands, Esqrs, for £12,430.

In the year 1780, the British being apprehensive of an attack from the American army under Gen-

eral Washington, commenced fortifying the high grounds about Brooklyn; which works they continued until the peace in 1783.^p In this town the British had their army yard, where their forage department, and blacksmith's shops, &c. were kept. The entrance to this yard was near the junction of Main-street with Fulton-street, in the present village of Brooklyn.^q

During the Revolution, this place was much resorted to by the officers of the English army, and the fashionables of the day, as a scene of amusement. In the Royal Gazette of August 8th, 1781, published at New-York, Charles Loosley advertises a Lottery of \$12,500, to be drawn at "Brooklyn Hall." The same paper contains the following advertisement: "Pro bono publico. Gentlemen that are fond of fox hunting, are requested to meet at Loosley's Tavern, on Ascot Heath, on Friday morning next, between the hours of five and six, as a pack of hounds will be there purposely for a trial of their abilities: Breakfasting and Relishes until the Races commence. At eleven o'clock will be run for, an elegant saddle, &c. value at least twenty pounds, for which upwards of twelve gentlemen will ride their own horses.—At twelve, a match will be rode by two gentlemen, Horse for Horse.—At one, a match for thirty guineas, by two gentlemen, who will also ride their own horses.—Dinner will be ready at two o'clock, after which, and suitable regalements, racing and other diversions, will be calculated to conclude the day with pleasure and harmony. Brooklyn Hall, 6th August, 1781."

Lieutenant Anberry, in a letter from New-York, to a friend in England, dated October 30th, 1781, says, "on crossing the East River from New-York, you land at Brooklyn, which is a scattered village, consisting of a few houses. At this place is an ex-

cellent Tavern, where parties are made to go and eat fish ; the landlord of which has saved an immense fortune this war." The public house referred to in the above advertisements, and letter, was the same house, which after the Revolution, and in the Compiler's recollection, was called the "Corporation House." It was a large, gloomy, old fashioned, stone edifice ; and was destroyed by fire, September 23, 1812.^R

This town was left by the British troops, the same day that they evacuated New-York.

ANCIENT GOVERNMENT.

The first public officer appointed by the Dutch Government for this town after its settlement in 1625, was a "Superintendent," whose duties were to preserve the peace, and regulate the police of the town. A few years after the office of Superintendent was abolished, and the offices of Schout, Secretary, and Assessor, created ; these officers were also appointed by the Governor. In 1646, the town having considerably increased, the inhabitants were permitted to elect two magistrates : subject, however, to the approval or rejection of the Governor. These magistrates had increased powers : they were authorized to give judgment in all cases as they might think proper ; provided that the judgment so given be not contrary to the charter of New-Netherland. Subsequently this Town Court was new modelled by the Dutch Government, and its power and authority more clearly defined.

The inhabitants suffering very much under the arbitrary exercise of power on the part of the government, frequently remonstrated against the same. Finally a convention of delegates from this, and the other towns under the Dutch government assembled at New Amsterdam, November 26th, 1653, on an

invitation from the Governor. Where they, on the 11th of December, following, entered into a remonstrance against the exclusion of the people from their share in legislation, and generally against their mode of government. The Governor and his Council sent them no answer, but entered one on the minutes; in which they denied the right of this town, Flatbush, and Flatlands, to send deputies, and protested against the meeting, notwithstanding the same was held at the Governor's request. Entertaining a just sense of the responsibility attached to them, the deputies made another, but ineffectual attempt, to obtain a recognition of their rights, and on the 13th of the last mentioned month, presented another remonstrance, in which they declared, that if they could not obtain them from the Governor and Council, they would be under the necessity of appealing to their superiors, the States General.—The Governor in a fit of anger dissolved their meeting, and sent them home.

In 1654, it appears that the country was very much infested with robbers; to disperse whom, April 7, 1654, the magistrates of this town, together with those of Midwout and Amersfort, united in forming a company of soldiers to act against "robbers and pirates," and determined that there should be a military officer in each town, called a Sergeant.

In order to prevent the depredations of the Indians, the Governor in 1660, ordered the inhabitants of Brooklyn to put the town in a state of defence; and commanded the farmers to remove within the fortifications, on the pain of forfeiting their estates (¹⁵)

(15) In 1665, a large body of Northern Indians made a descent on Staten Island, and massacred 67 persons; after which they crossed to Long-Island, and invested Gravesend; which place was relieved by a party of soldiers from New-Amsterdam. It appears from the records that these

For the first two or three years under the English government, the magistrates of this town were but temporary officers. Nearly all that we know about the government previous to 1669, is, that Town Courts were established in this Colony.—The inference would be, that as this town was granted “all the rights and privileges belonging to a town within this government,” a town Court was also organized here.

The Town Clerk of this town was appointed by the Governor, and confirmed by the Court of Sessions, as will appear by the following record: At a Court of Sessions held at Gravesend for the West Riding of Yorkshire upon Long-Island, December 15, 1669. “Whereas Derick Storm presented an order from his Hon. the Governor, for the approbation of the Court of Sessions, to allow him to be towne clerk of Breucklen, taking his oath, the Court having allowed thereof, and doe hereby confirme him of Clerke of the said towne.”

In the year 1669, the first mention is made in the records of the “Constable of Breucklen;” which office at that period was held by Michael Lenell. The duties of constable as laid down in the Duke’s laws were, holding town courts with the overseers, and with them making assessments, &c. whipping, or punishing offenders, raising the hue and cry after murderers, manslaughterers, thieves, robbers, burglars; and also to apprehend without warrant such as were overtaken with drink, swearing, Sabbath

Indians were on their way to commence a war against the Indians on the east end of Long-Island.

The inhabitants of Flatbush were ordered by Governor Stuyvesant, in 1656, to enclose their village with palisades to protect them from the Indians. These fortifications were required to be kept under the English government, as will appear by the following record of the Court of Sessions for the West Riding of Yorkshire upon Long-Island, December 15th 1675. “The towne of Flatbush having neglected the making of fortifications, the Court take notis of it, and refer the censure to ye Governor.”

breaking, vagrant persons, or night walkers ; “provided they bee taken in the manner, either by the sighte of the constable, or by present informacon from others ; as alsoe to make searche for all such persons either on ye Sabbath daye, or other, when there shall bee occasion in all houses licensed to sell beere or wine, or any other suspected or disorderly places, and those to apprehend and keepe in safe custody till opportunity serves to bring them before the next Justice of ye Peace for further examinacon.” The Constable was chosen out of the number of Overseers, whose term of service had expired.

The following is a list of the Constables of Brooklyn, from 1669 to 1690 :

- 1669. Michael Lenel.
- 1671. Lambert Johnson.
- 1675. Andries Juriaensen.
- 1676. Cornelius Corson.
- 1678. Thomas Lambertse.
- 1679. John Aeresen.
- 1680. Andries Juriaensen.
- 1682. Martin Ryersen.

Brooklyn and Newtown were ordered to make a new choice according to law.

- 1683. Jan Cornelis Dam.
- 1684. Thomas Ffardon.
- 1687. John Aertsen.
- 1689. Jacobus Beavois.
- 1688. Volkert Andriese.
- 1689. Jurian Bries.
- 1690. Jurian Hendrickse.

Shortly after the conquest of this Colony by the English from the Dutch, the towns of Brooklyn, Bushwyck, Midwout, or Flatbush, Amersfort, or Flatlands, and New-Utrecht, were formed into a

separate district for certain purposes, by the name of the "Five Dutch Towns." A Secretary was specially appointed for these five towns, whose duties appear to have been confined to the taking acknowledgment of transports, and marriage settlements, and proof of wills, &c. This office in 1674, was held by "Nicasius De Sille, in the absence of Sr Francis De Brugh." This same Mr. De Sille, was in authority under the Dutch Government, in the year 1658, as Schout of the city of New-Amsterdam. He was styled, "Heer Nicasius De Sille." There was no uniformity in the title of those acknowledging officers of the Five Dutch towns. In 1675, Machiel Hainelle exercised that office, and styled himself "Clerk." In the same year the Court of Sessions for this Riding, after setting forth the appointment of Hainell, and calling him "Secretary," said, "It is the opinion of the Court that for what publique or private business he shall doe he ought to have reasonable satisfacon.⁽¹⁶⁾"

There were also in this town, officers, who were called "Overseers." The Duke's Laws provide for their appointment in the following manner. "Overseers shall be eight in number, men of good fame, and life, chosen by the plurality of voyces of the freeholders in each towne, whereof foure shall remaine in their office two yeares successively, and foure shall be changed for new ones every yeare; which election shall preceed the elections of Constables, in point of time, in regard the Constable for the yeare ensuing, is to bee chosen out of that number which are dismiss from their office of Overseers."

(16) There were also a "Clerk" in most if not in all of these towns, who seems to have been authorised to take proof of the execution of wills; whether he was the Town Clerk does not appear. This officer was differently appointed in the different towns. In Bushwick he was appointed by the Commissioners of the town, and in New-Utrecht he was elected by the people, and approved of by the Governor.

The following is a copy of the oath which was administered to the overseers elect.

“Whereas you are chosen and appointed an Overseer for the Towne of Breucklen you doe sweare by the Ever-living God, that you will faithfully and diligently discharge the trust reposed in you, in relation to the publique and towne affaires, according to the present lawes established, without favour, affection or partiality to any person or cause which shall fall under your cognizance; and at time when you shall bee required by your superiors to attend the private differences of neighbours, you will endeavour to reconcile them; and in all causes conscientiously and according to the best of your judgment deliver your voyce in the towne meetings of Constable and Overseers. So helpe you God.” These officers were commonly sworn by the Court of Sessions; but in the year 1671, the Constable of Newtown objected to the Court’s swearing the overseers of that town, “alledgeing that accordinge to the amendments of the law iff special occation required, itt is in the power of the Constable to sweare them, otherwise not, which is left to his Honor the Governor to decide.” The inhabitants of the town for which the overseers were elected were authorised to determine by a major vote whether the said overseers should, on admission to office, take the oath prescribed as above; and in case the said overseers were not sworn, it was a legal objection against their proceedings on the part of any person prosecuted in their court, unless the overseers immediately on objection being made, took the oath, which the Constable was permitted to administer.

It was the duty of the overseers, together with the Constable, to hold Town Courts, for the trial of causes under £5. Their other duties are contained

in the following summary. On the death of any person they were to repair with the Constable, to the house of the deceased, and inquire after the manner of his death, and of his will and testament; and if no will was found, the Constable in the presence of the Overseers was, within 48 hours, to search after the estate of the deceased, and to deliver an account of the same in writing, under oath, to the next Justice of the Peace. They, together with the Constable made all assessments. If any Overseer died during his term, the rest of the Overseers by a major vote, made choice of another in his place; and if the person so chosen refused to serve, he forfeited the sum of £10, towards defraying the town charges. They were to settle the bounds of the town, within twelve months after the bounds were granted. They had the power of regulating fences. They were authorised together with the Constable to make choice of two out of the eight overseers of Church affairs.

They and the Constable, were frequently to admonish the inhabitants "to instruct their children and servants in matters of religion, and the lawes of the country." They, with the Constable, appointed an officer "to record every man's particular marke, and see each man's horse and colt branded." The Constable and two of the Overseers were to pay the value of an Indian coat for each wolf killed; and they were to cause the wolf's head to be "nayed over the door of the Constable, their to remaine, as also to cut of both the eares in token that the head is bought and paid for.

The following is the only list that the Compiler could obtain of the Overseers of this town.

1671. Frederick Lubertse and Peter Pernied-eare.

1675. John Peterson Mackhike, and Jerome De Rapostelley.

1676. Tunis Guis Bergen, and Thomas Lambertson.

1679. John Harrill, and Martyn Reyandsen.

1680. Symon Aeresen, and Michael Hansen.

1683. John Aeresen, and Daniel Rapellie.

In the year 1683, the "Overseers" were changed to "Commissioners," The "act for defraying the publique and neccessary charge of each respective citty, towne, and county throughout this province; and for maintaining the poore and preventing vagabonds." Passed by the General Assembly of this Colony, November 1st, 1683, provides— "That annually and once in every yeare there shall be elected a certaine number out of each respective citty, towne, and county throughout this province; to be elected and chosen by the major part of all the ffreeholders and ffreemen: which certaine number so duely elected shall have full power and authority to make an assessment or certaine rate within their respective cittys, townes and countys annually, and once in every yeare, which assessment and certain rate so established as aforesaid, shall bee paid into a certaine Treasurer, who shall be chosen by a major part of all the ffreemen of each respective citty, towne, and county; which Treasurer soe duly chosen, shall make such payment for the defraying of all the publique and necessary charges of each respective place above-menconed. as shall bee appointed by the commissioners, or their President, that shall be appointed in each respective citty, towne, and county within this province, for he *supervising the publique affaires and charge of* each respective citty, towne and county aforesaid." And the said act proceeds further to say, "And whereas it is the custome and practice of his Ma-

jesties realm of England, and all the adjacent colonyes in America, that every respective county, citty, towne, parrish, and precinct, doth take care and provide for the poore who doe inhabit in their respective precincts aforesaid; Therefore it is enacted, &c. That for the time to come the respective commissioners of every county, citty, towne, parish, precinct aforesaid, shall make provision for the maintenance and support of their poor respectively.”(17)

The following is a list of the Commissioners of this town from 1684, to 1690, inclusive.

1684. Thomas Lambertsen, Randolph Emans, and John Aeresen.

1685. Tunis Guis Bergen, and Daniel Rapalie.

1686. Michael Hansen, and Jeromus De Rapalie.

The town made choice of Hansen and De Rapalie; and were ordered by the Court of Sessions to make a new selection by the 12th of April, 1686, and return the same to one of the Justices of the Peace for Kings County.

1687. Adriaen Bennet, Thomas Lambertsen, and Tunis Guysbert.

The Court of Sessions ordered the town to make choice of a new Commissioner in the place of Tunis Gaysbert; which they accordingly did, and elected Jan Gerritsen Dorland.

1688. Simon Aertsen, Michael Hansen, and Claes Barensen.

The Court of Sessions refused to swear Michael Hansen.

(17) This law provides, that any person not having a visible estate, or a manual craft or occupation, coming into any place within this province, should give security, not to become chargeable within two years; and the captains of vessels bringing passengers into this province, were required to report them to the chief magistrate of the place, within 24 hours after their arrival. Under the Dutch Government the poor were supported out of the fines imposed for offences committed, and by contributions taken up in the Churches.

1690. Joris Hansen, Hendrick Claasen, and Jan Gerbritse.

The office of "Commissioner" continued until 1703, when a "Supervisor" was elected. The Supervisors of Kings County had their first meeting on the first Tuesday of October, 1703; at which meeting Captain Joras Hansen was the Supervisor from Brooklyn. The duty of the Supervisors was, "to compute, ascertain, examine, oversee and allow the contingent, publick, and necessary charge of each county." Two assessors were also elected for this town whose names were, Peter Garbrantse, and John E. Bennet; and one Collector. This is not the first mention of the assessors and collectors of this town in our County Records. In 1688, Michael Hansen, and Daniel Rapalie were chosen assessors, for the purpose of assessing this town's proportion of a tax of £308 8s 0d, which was imposed on Kings County. It is the opinion of the Compiler, that these were distinct officers from the Commissioners, whose duty it was to assess the ordinary rates; and that these assessors were but temporary officers, appointed to assess this particular tax. In 1699, Jan Garretse Dorlant is mentioned as Collector of Brooklyn; and in 1701, John Bybout held the same office.

In 1691, a majority of the freeholders of the town were empowered to make orders for the improvement of their public lands; and annually to elect three surveyors of highways. The duties of these surveyors were to amend and lay out highways and fences. The town meeting at which these orders were made, and officers elected, were held by the direction, and under the superintendence of one or more justices of the peace.

November 8, 1692. The court of sessions for Kings county, ordered that each town within the county, should erect "a good pair of stocks, and

a good pound ;” and that the clerk of the court should issue a warrant to the constable of every town, requiring them to see this order complied with “at their peril.” The following is a list of the constables of this town, from the new organization of the colony in 1691, to 1711, as far as the compiler has been able to ascertain the same :

1693. Volkert Brier.

1697. Volkert Brier.

1698. Jacob Hansen. [This man was complained of by the last constable for not making his appearance at court ; and the sheriff was ordered to summon him to appear at the next court.]

1699. Jacobus Beauvois.

1700. Cornelius Verhoeven.

1701. Jacob Verdon.

1702. Thomas Davies.

1703. Thomas Davies.

1704. William Brower.

1705. Jacob Ffardon. [This constable refused to call a town meeting in 1706, in compliance with the requisitions of a warrant he had received from Justice Ffilkin, for the election of town officers ; and the inhabitants complained of him to the court of sessions, who ordered that a town meeting should be held for the election of town officers, and that Ffardon should hold over until a new constable was elected and sworn in his stead.

1707. Abram Sleghter.

1708. Cornelius Collier.

1709. William Brower.

1711. Thomas Davies.

For some time previous and subsequent to the year 1693, the colony was in a very disordered state, arising probably from its new organization after the revolution in Great Britain.

At the same period, both the civil and military governments in this town and also in the county, were very unpopular. In order to support their authority, the justices of the peace resorted to the exercise of very arbitrary measures : arresting and confining many persons under the pretence of their having uttered scandalous words against them, and the government ; by which proceedings they completely alienated the people's affections, and exasperated them to such a degree that they committed many excesses : all which will appear by the following extracts from the records :

“ October 11, 1693, at a meeting of the justices of Kings county, at the county hall. Present, Roeleff Martinse, Nicholas Stillwell, Joseph Hege-man, and Henry Ffilkin, esqrs. justices. John Bibout, of Broockland, in the county aforesaid, we aver being committed by the said justices to the common jail of Kings county, for divers scandalous and abusive words spoken by the said John against their majesties justices of the peace for the county aforesaid, to the contempt of their majesties authority and breach of the peace ; the said John having now humbly submitted himself, and craves pardon and mercy of the said justices for his misdemeanour, is discharged, paying the officer's fees, and being on his good behaviour till next court of sessions, in November next ensuing the date hereof.”

In another instance, during the same year, in the month of October, in the town of Bushwyck, a man named Urian Hagell, was imprisoned for having said, on a training day, speaking jestingly of the soldiers, “ Let us knock them down, we are three to their one.” The justices called these “ mutinous, factious, and seditious words ;” which,

with the like, appear to have been favourite terms with them. Again, in the same month and year, Hendrick Claes Vechte, of the town of Brooklyn, was imprisoned by the justices, on a charge of "raising of dissension, strife, and mutiny, among their majesties subjects." And May 8, 1694, two women of Bushwick were indicted at the sessions, for having beat and pulled the hair of Captain Peter Praa, whilst at the head of his company of soldiers on parade. One of them was fined £3, and the cost, £1 19s. 9d.; and the other 40s. and the cost, £1 19s. 9d. In the last mentioned year, (1694) Volkert Brier, constable of Brooklyn, was fined £5, and the costs of court amounting to £1, by the sessions, "for tearing and burning an execution directed to him as constable."⁽¹⁸⁾ Brier afterwards petitioned the governor to have the fine remitted; a copy of which petition is in the appendix, marked C.

This town with respect to legal matters was under the jurisdiction of the court of sessions held at Gravesend, for the West Riding of Yorkshire, upon Long-Island,⁽¹⁹⁾ until the year 1683; when an act was passed by the first legislative assembly of this colony, dividing the province into counties, by which the ridings were abolished. The court however continued to be held at Gravesend until 1686, when it was removed to Flatbush, in conformity to an act of the colonial assembly, passed in the year 1685. This town continued under the

(18) Sept. 14, 1696, about 8 o'clock in the evening, John Rapale, Isaac Remsen, Joras Yannester, Joras Danielse Rapale, Jacob Ryersen, Aert Aersen, Tunis Buys, Garret Cowenhoven, Gabriel Sprong, Urian Andriese, John Williamse Bennet, Jacob Bennet, and John Meserole, jr. met armed at the court-house of Kings, where they destroyed and defaced the king's arms which were hanging up there.

(19) The West Riding was composed of the towns of Brooklyn, Bushwick, Flatbush, Flatlands, New-Utrecht, and Gravesend, together with Staten-Island and Newtown.

jurisdiction of that court, and the court of common pleas, which was afterwards established, until the close of the revolutionary war. At the close of the war the courts were re-organized, and this town still continues under their jurisdiction.

PRESENT GOVERNMENT.

In 1816 the village of Brooklyn was erected out of the town, and constituted a distinct government; thereby forming an *imperium in imperio*.

The present government both of the town and village, approach as near a pure democracy as that of any other place in this state. No business of importance is undertaken without first having the sanction of a public meeting. Here these sterling principles, that all power emanates from the people, and that public officers are but public servants, are fully recognized, and acted upon.

This head the compiler will divide into two divisions, in order to avoid confusion: First, the Town Government, and second, the Village Government.

First—the Town Government.

The government of the town is administered by A *Supervisor*, elected by the people, at the annual town-meeting, on the first Tuesday of April. The duties of this officer are principally confined to the apportionment of taxes, presiding at elections, &c. He is also *ex officio* a commissioner of excise for granting tavern licenses in the town, and the general guardian of the town rights. There is no salary attached to this office: the supervisor receives a compensation of two dollars per day, for attending the general meeting of the supervisors of the different towns in the county, and a trifling amount for granting licenses. The present supervisor is William Furman, esq.

A *Town Clerk*, also elected by the people. The duties of this officer are to call special town meetings on the request of twelve freeholders, record the proceedings of town meetings, and preserve the records of the town. In 1698, Jacob Vandewater, town clerk of this town, received the sum of £6 5s. for two years and six months salary.⁽²⁰⁾ In 1822, in order to make the town clerk's salary in some degree proportionate to the increase of business, the town voted him a salary of \$50. In 1824, the town clerk's salary was increased to \$75. The office is at present held by John Doughty, esq. who has been successively elected since the year 1796.

Five *Assessors*, also elected by the people—whose duties are to assess all real and personal estate liable to taxation within the town, and to forward such assessment to the supervisors, that they may apportion the amount of tax on the same. The present assessors are Messrs. John S. Bergen, Richard Stanton, John Spader, Joseph Moser, and Andrew Demarest. Their compensation is one dollar and twenty-five cents per day during the time they are employed in making and completing the assessment.

There are also elected two *overseers of the poor*, Messrs. William Cornwell, and Isaac Moser; one *constable and collector*, Mr. John M'Kenney; two *constables*, Messrs John Lawrence, and Samuel Doxsey; and several other officers, whose names and duties will be set forth in the subsequent parts of this work.

The judicial business of this town is at present transacted by three *justices of the peace*, viz. John Garrison, John G. Murphy, and Samuel Smith,

(20) At the same period the salary of the clerk of the county was £10 per annum.

esqrs. These magistrates are appointed by the judges of the common pleas, and the supervisors of the county.

Second—the Village Government.

April 12, 1816, the village of Brooklyn was incorporated by an act of the legislature of this state. By this act the freeholders and inhabitants are authorized annually to elect, on the first Monday of May, "Five discreet freeholders, resident within the said village, Trustees thereof;" and these trustees are authorised to appoint a president and clerk. The first trustees, Messrs. Andrew Mercein, John Garrison,^s John Doughty, John Seaman, and John Dean, were appointed by the legislature, and continued in office until the first Monday of May, 1817; when the first election was made by the people, and they made choice of Messrs. William Furman,^t Henry Stanton, William Henry, Tunis Joralemon,^v and Noah Waterbury.^v The present trustees are Messrs. Joshua Sands,^w John Doughty,^x Joseph Moser, John Moon, and Samuel James. Joshua Sands, esq. president, and John Dikeman, esq. clerk of the board. The president previous to 1824 received no salary; at present his salary is \$300. The clerk formerly received a salary of \$100, which in consequence of the great increase of business is now raised to \$200. The powers of the trustees are principally "to make, ordain, constitute, and publish, such prudential by-laws, rules and regulations, as they from time to time shall deem meet and proper; and such in particular as relate to the public markets, streets, alleys, and highways of the said village; to draining, filling up, levelling, paving, improving, and keeping in order the same; relative to slaughter houses, houses of ill-fame, and nuisances gen-

rally ; relative to a village watch, and lighting the streets of said village ; relative to restraining geese, swine, or cattle of any kind ; relative to the better improvement of their common lands ; relative to the inspection of weights and measures, and the assize of bread ; relative to erecting and regulating hay-scales ; relative to the licensing of public porters, cartmen, hackney coachmen, gaugers, weigh-masters, measurers, inspectors of beef and pork, of wood, of staves and heading, and of lumber ; relative to public wells, pumps, and reservoirs or cisterns of water to be kept filled for the extinguishment of fires ; relative to the number of taverns or inns to be licensed in said village ; and relative to any thing whatsoever that may concern the public and good government of the said village ; but no such by-laws shall extend to the regulating or fixing the prices of any commodities or articles of provision, except the article of bread, that may be offered for sale." The powers of the trustees, in opening, regulating, and widening streets, are enlarged and defined by an act passed by the legislature of this state, April 9, 1824.

The board of trustees have the appointment of several officers. The following is a list of the names of the officers at present holding under them.

John Lawrence, Collector.

Samuel Watts,

John Titus,

Andrew Tombs,

Robert W. Doughty,

Burdet Striker, Measurer.

William A. Sale, Measurer of Lime.

} Weighers.

Three village Assessors are also elected by the people, for the purpose of making an assessment on which to apportion the village tax. The present assessors are Losee Van Nostrand, Gamaliel King, and John D. Conklin.

The Trustees, by an act passed April 9th, 1824, are constituted a Board of Health. The President and Clerk of the Trustees are ex-officio President and Clerk of the Board of Health. The salary of the President of this Board is \$150.

A Health Physician is appointed by the Board of Health; which office is at present held by Dr. J. G. T. Hunt, with a salary of \$200.

The duties of the Board relate to the general conservation of the Health of the village.

As early as 1809, during the prevalence of the yellow fever in this town, the inhabitants met together in consequence of repeated solicitations from the Common Council of New-York, and after stating in their proceedings, that "reports prevailed, that disease exists to an alarming extent in the town of Brooklyn," they appointed the following gentlemen a committee "for the purpose of inquiring into the state of the health of the inhabitants of said town, and to act as the case in their opinion may require," viz William Furman, John Garrison, Burdet Stryker, Henry Stanton, and Andrew Mercen. A sum of money was raised by subscription to meet the expenses of this Committee.

In the year 1819, the Trustees, although not strictly invested with power, yet feeling the necessity of acting with some degree of energy, in order to quiet the fears of the inhabitants, arising from reports of the existence of a pestilential disease in New-York, published an address; in which they state, "that during this season of alarm, they have not been unmindful of that part of their duty incumbent on them as a *Board of Health* for the village," and that "measures have been taken to obtain from time to time, a report of the state of health throughout the village, that the inhabitants may be early apprised of any change affecting their welfare."

PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND INSTITUTIONS.

This head will be divided into three divisions—first, Churches; second, Markets; and third, Public institutions.

First, Churches.

The first Church established in Kings County was, October 13, 1654, when the Rev. Joannes Theodorus Polhemus,^y a minister of the Dutch Reformed Church, was *permitted* by Governor Stuyvesant, to preach at Midwout, (Flatbush) and Amersfort, (Flatlands).⁽²¹⁾ The congregation was gathered at this time; but the order of Governor Stuyvesant for building the Church is dated December 15, 1654. February 9, 1655, the Governor ordered the inhabitants of Brooklyn and Amersfort, which at that period, together with Gravesend, were one congregation, to cut timber for the erection of the Church at Midwout; which building was to be 60 feet in length, 28 feet in breadth, and 14 feet in height below the beams.

In order to accommodate the four towns of Gravesend, Amersfort, Midwout, and Brooklyn, the Governor ordered that Mr. Polhemus should preach every Sunday morning at Midwout, and Sunday afternoons alternately at Amersfort and Brooklyn.

In the year 1659, the inhabitants of this town applied to Governor Stuyvesant for permission to call a minister for their congregation, assigning as a reason for their application, the badness of the road to Flatbush, the difficulty of attending divine service at New-York, and the extreme old age and inability of the Rev. Mr. Polhemus to perform his services at Brooklyn.

(21) This minister died in the month of June, 1676.

The Governor deemed the request reasonable, and sent Nicasius de Sille, Fiscal of New-Netherland, and Martin Kregier, Burgomaster, of New-Amsterdam, to this town, as a committee of inquiry, who reported in favour of the application; whereupon the request of the inhabitants was granted. The inhabitants prepared a call for the Rev. Henry Solinus,^z alias Henricus Selwyn, from Holland, who was approved of by the classis of Amsterdam, on the 16th of February, 1660, when the classis also gave the Rev. Mr. Solinus a dismission, wishing him a safe and prosperous journey by land and by water to his congregation in the New-Netherland. The time of the arrival of this minister is not known. He was installed in his church on the 3d of September, 1660, in the presence of the Fiscal, and Burgomaster Kregier, by the order of Governor Stuyvesant, who appears to have been at the head of the ecclesiastical, as well as the civil and military government of the colony.

On the 7th of September, 1660, a letter was written to the Rev. Mr. Polhemus, informing him of the installation of the Rev. Mr. Solinus in the Church of Brooklyn, and thanking him for his labours and attention to the Congregation. The letter was sent by a respectable person, to whom the Rev. Mr. Polhemus returned his thanks for the attention which the Church at Brooklyn had paid him, and furnished the messenger with a list of the names of the Church members, twenty-five in number.

Mr. Solinus' salary was 600 guilders per annum, equal to \$200. Three hundred guilders of which was to be paid by Brooklyn, and three hundred by Father land, (Holland). Some time after, the inhabitants of Brooklyn objected to raising their proportion of the salary; and May 25, 1662, petition-

ed the Governor, that Mr. Solinus should reside among them; setting forth as a reason, that if their minister resided with them more people would go to church, and they would be better able to raise the salary. Governor Stuyvesant, in order to accommodate this dispute, proposed to pay 250 guilders towards Mr. Solinus' salary, on condition that he would preach in the Bouwery on Sunday afternoons.—This arrangement appears to have been entered into, for a short time after Mr. Solinus preached at the Bouwery half the time.

The Indians having on the 7th of June, 1663, attacked the town of Esopus, burnt the same, and destroyed many of the inhabitants, and took many prisoners; the event was communicated by Governor Stuyvesant to the church at Brooklyn, in the following manner.

“As a sorrowfull accident and wilfull masacre has been committed by the Esopus Indians, who have with deliberate design under the insidious cover of friendship, determined to destroy Esopus, which they effected on the 7th instant, killing and wounding a number of the inhabitants, and taking many prisoners, burning the new town, and desolating the place. Whereupon the congregation is directed and desired by his excellency the Governor General to observe and keep the ensuing Wednesday as a day of fasting, humiliation and prayer to the Almighty, hoping that he may avert further calamities from the New-Netherlands, and extend his fatherly protection and care to the country. And it is further ordered, that the first Wednesday in every month be observed in like manner. By order of the Director General, and Council, &c. Dated at Fort Orange, June 26, 1663.” Wednesday the 4th of July, 1663, was observed as a day of thanksgiving on account of a treaty of peace

having been made with the Esopus Indians, and the release of the inhabitants who had been taken prisoners; and also for the success obtained over the British, who attempted with flying colours to take possession of all Long-Island for the King of England, which was prevented by the timely arrival of the Dutch fleet.

On the 23d of July, 1664, the Rev. Henry Solinus took leave of his congregation and sailed in the ship *Beaver* for Holland. After his departure, Charles Debevoise,^{AA} the schoolmaster of the town, and sexton of the church, was directed to read prayers, and a sermon from an approved author, every Sabbath day in the church, for the improvement of the congregation, until another minister was called.

The first Dutch church in Brooklyn was built in the year 1666, although a minister had been settled to preach here for some years previous.—A second church was erected on the site of that built in 1666; which second church continued standing until about 1810, when a new and substantial church was erected on Joralemon-street, and the old one taken down. This old church was a very gloomy looking building, with small windows, and stood in the middle of the highway, about a mile from Brooklyn ferry. In removing it the workmen discovered the remains of a Hessian officer, who had been buried there in his uniform, during the Revolutionary war.^{BB}

The Dutch congregations on this Island formed but one church, although they had different consistories.

The ministers under the Dutch government were not permitted to marry any person without making the marriage proclamation on three succeeding Sabbaths in their churches. The same practice was

observed after the Colony came under the British government. The last mentioned government however sold marriage licenses, which were granted by the Governor's Secretary in New-York, for the sum of eight dollars each. The inhabitants generally preferred purchasing a marriage license, and thus contributed to the revenue of the Governor and Secretary.

During the ministry of the Rev. Mr. Solinus, the marriage fees were not the perquisite of the Minister, as appears by his account rendered by him to the Consistory, on the 29th of October, 1662, when he paid over to the consistory the sum of 78 guilders and 10 stivers, for fourteen marriage fees received by him.

The following is a list of ministers of the Dutch Reformed Church, who officiated in the church on this Island, (with the exception of Polhemus, and Solinus,) taken from a manuscript of the Rev. Peter Lowe.

Joannes Magapolensis, probably died	1668.
Casperus Van Zuren, do	1677.
Clark, do	1695.
William Lupardus, do	1709.
Bernardus Freeman, ⁽²²⁾ from 1702, to	1741.
Vincintius Antonides, from 1715, to	1744.
Joannes Arondeus, probably died,	1742.
Anthony Curtenius, from 1730, to	1756.
Ulpianus Van Sinderen, from 1747, to	1796.
John Casper Rubel, from 1760, to	1797.
Martinus Schoonmaker, from 1785, to	1824.

[This venerable pastor was 88 years of age at his death ; and a short time previous, officiated in four congregations.]

Peter Lowe, from 1787, to	1818.
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(22) This minister was naturalized in the Court of Sessions for Kings County, November 8, 1715.

In the month of April, 1708, fifty-seven of the inhabitants of Brooklyn, entered into an agreement (which is written in Dutch) to call a minister from Holland, to preach in the church of this town. The elders of the church at that time were, Daniel Rap-alie, and Jores Hanse.

The salary of the Clerk of the Church in this town was formerly raised by a tax on the whole town. At a town meeting, held February 1, 1568, It was resolved, that the sum of £20 10s. should be raised, and paid into the hands of the "church masters" for "the widow of Hendrick Sleght, ffor 1 year and 8 months salary, and being Clarke off the church."

The following singular proceeding may be amusing to some readers, and will serve to shew to what extremes, both the people and the magistrates carried themselves in former times. Hendrick Vechte, Esq. a Justice of the Peace, was presented at the Kings County Sessions, May 14, 1710, for coming into the Brooklyn Church, on Sunday, August 10, 1709, "with his pen and ink in his hand, taking of peoples names, and taking up one particular mans hatt up, and in disturbance of the minister and people in the service of God, &c." Vechte's plea was that in obedience to an order of the Governor he did go into the church as alledged, "to take notice of the persons that were guilty of the forcible entry made into the Church, that by Abram Brower, and others, by breaking of said Church doore with force and arms, forcibly entering into said Church, notwithstanding the forewarning of Mr. Freeman the minister, and his people to the contrary" The Court found that Justice Vechte was not guilty of a breache of the peace, and discharged him. It must be remembered that Justice Vechte was a member of the Court. There was a considerable difference

of opinion and many disputes among the inhabitants of this town and of the County, as to the right of the Rev. Mr. Freeman to preach ; into the merits of which controversy, it is not to be expected that the Compiler can enter at this distant day. Excepting the above proceeding of the Court, the only document which the Compiler has been able to obtain relative to this controversy is a letter from Henry Filkin, Esq. to the Secretary at New-York, which will be found in the Appendix marked with the letter D.

December 18, 1814, the Trustees of the Dutch Reformed Church of the town of Brooklyn were incorporated. At which time the following gentlemen were officers of the Church.

Martinas Schoonmaker,	} Ministers.
Peter Lowe,	

Elders.

Fernandus Suydam,	Walter Berry,
Jeremiah Johnson,	John Lefferts.

Deacons.

Jeremiah Brower,	Lambert Schenck,
Abraham De Bevoise,	Abraham Remsen.

The present officers of this Church are,
Rev. S. S. Woodhull, D. D. Pastor.

Elders.

Leffert Lefferts,	Tunis Joralemon,
David Anderson,	Nehemiah Denton.

Deacons.

Theodorus Polhemus,	James De Bevoise,
Adrian Hegeman,	Adriance Van Brunt.

September 18, 1785, an "Independent Meeting

House," was incorporated at this place. The officers of which were :

John Matlock, Pastor,
George Wall, Assistant,
John Carpenter, Treasurer,
George Powers, Secretary.

Trustees.

William Bunton,	John Emery,
Robert Steath,	William Hinson.
Barnard Cordman,	

Their place of worship was a frame building on what is now the Episcopalian burying ground in Fulton-street. This congregation continued but a short time, in consequence of the seceding of its members to the Episcopalian Church, which was soon after established in this place.

The first celebration of Divine Service, after the manner of the Protestant Episcopal Church, in this town, subsequent to the Revolution, was at the old brick house known as No. 40 Fulton-street, and now owned by Mr. Abiel Titus.

About the year 1787, the Episcopal Church was established in Brooklyn, under the pastoral care of the Rev. Mr. Wright, at the house on the north-east corner of Fulton and Middagh-streets; which house was fitted up with pews, &c.

April 23, 1787, "The Episcopal Church of Brooklyn" was incorporated. The following are the names of the first

Trustees.

Whitehead Cornell,	Joshua Sands,
Joseph Sealy,	Aquila Giles,
Mathew Gleaves,	Henry Stanton,
John Van Nostrand.	

This congregation afterwards came into possession of the place of worship before used by the Independent Congregation, and continued to worship in that edifice until they erected the Stone Church called "St. Ann's Church," on Sands-street.

June 22, 1795. The Episcopal Church in this town was re-organized and incorporated by the name of "St. Ann's Church."^{cc}

Church Wardens.

John Van Nostrand, and George Powers.

Vestrymen.

Joshua Sands,	Aquila Giles,
Paul Durel,	John Cornell,
Joseph Fox,	Gilbert Van Mater.
William Carpenter,	Robert Stoddard.

The congregation at the same time resolved, that Monday in Easter week should be the time of their future elections for Church officers.

The stone church which was erected on Sands-street, has continued to the present time; but is now in bad repair, in consequence of the walls not having been properly erected. The Vestry passed a vote for erecting a new church to front on Washington-street, the corner stone of which was laid March 31, 1824. The new edifice is fast progressing, and promises to be a great ornament to the place.

The present officers of St. Ann's Church are,
Rev. Henry U. Onderdonk, Rector.

Church Wardens.

William Cornwell, and Joshua Sands.

Vestrymen.

James B. Clark,	John H. Moore,
Robert Bach,	Robert Carter,
Adam Tredwell,	Losee Van Nostrand,
Fanning C. Tucker,	A. H. Van Bokkelen.
William Cornwell, Treasurer.	

May 19, 1794, the "First Methodist Episcopal Church" in this town was incorporated.^{6b} The Trustees at which period were,

John Garrison,	Stephen Hendrickson,
Thomas Van Pelt,	Richard Everit,
Burdet Stryker,	Isaac Moser.

The present Meeting-house of this denomination is erected on the site of their first place of worship, on Sands-street; and is a neat, plain edifice. The present officers are,

Rev. William Ross, Pastor in charge.

Trustees.

John Garrison,	George Smith,
Isaac Moser,	Isaac Nostrand,
William Foster,	John G. Murphy,
Jacob Brown,	R. Van Voris.
Andrew Mercein.	

Isaac Moser, Treasurer.

January 12, 1818, The "African Wesleyan Methodist Episcopal Church in the village of Brooklyn," incorporated.

First Trustees.

Peter Croger,	Benjamin Croger,
Israel Jemison,	John E. Jackson,
Ceasar Sprong.	

The place of worship of this Congregation is a frame meeting house situate on High-street.

March 13, 1822. The "First Presbyterian Church of Brooklyn" was incorporated.^{6e}

First Trustees.

Jehiel Jaggar,	Elkanah Doolittle,
Nathaniel Howland,	Joseph Sprague,
Silas Butler,	Alden Spooner,
John B. Graham,	George Hall,
Charles H. Richards.	

The corner stone of this church was laid, April 15, 1822. The Church is situate on Cranberry-street; and is a very handsome brick building, something in the Gothic style. The present officers are,

Rev. Joseph Sanford, Pastor.

Elders.

Zechariah Smith,	Selden Gates.
Ezra C. Woodhull.	

Trustees.

Alden Spooner,	George Hall,
Edward Coope,	Nathaniel Howland,
Henry W. Warner,	Benjamin Meeker,
Elkanah Doolittle,	Joseph Sprague,
Silas Butler.	

Elkanah Doolittle, President of the Board,
 Silas Butler, Clerk do
 Nathaniel W. Sanford, Treasurer

November 20, 1822. "St. James Roman Catholic Church," incorporated.^{FF}

First Trustees.

George S. Wise, Jun.	William Purcell,
Peter Turner,	James Rose,
Patrick Scanlan,	Darby Dawson,
William M'Laughlin.	

The corner stone of this Church was laid, June 25, 1822. The edifice is of brick, and approaches nearer to the Gothic architecture than any other building in this town. It is yet unfinished. This is the first Roman Catholic Church erected on Long-Island. The present Trustees are,

—— —, President.⁽²³⁾
 Peter Turner, Secretary,

(23) This office was held by George S. Wise, Jun. Esq. until his death in November, 1824.

William Purcell, Treasurer,
 James Rose,
 Darby Dawson,
 William M'Laughlin,
 Patrick Scanlan.

October 15, 1823. The "First Baptist Church
 in Brooklyn" incorporated.

Trustees.

Eliakim Raymond,	Elijah Lewis,
John Brown,	Richard Poland,
Charles P. Jacobs.	

March 24, 1824. Rev. William C. Hawley was
 ordained Pastor of this Church. This congrega-
 tion have as yet, erected no building for public wor-
 ship; but assemble for that purpose in the District
 School room No. 1.

There are also in this town some of the denomi-
 nation of Friends, and a small congregation of
 Universalists; neither of which have established
 places of public worship. The Universalists are
 under the pastoral care of the Rev. William Mit-
 chell, and assemble for Divine service in the District
 School room, No. 1.

In the present year, this town purchased of Lef-
 fert Lefferts, Esq. a small farm situate at the Walla-
 boght; a portion of which was set off for a bury-
 ing ground, and divided into convenient parcels;
 which were allotted in the following manner to the
 different congregations worshipping in the town,
 viz.

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| No. 1. Dutch Reformed, | 5. Methodist Episcopalian, |
| 2. Friends, | 6. Universalist, |
| 3. Presbyterian, | 7. Episcopalian, |
| 4. Roman Catholic, | 8. Baptist, |
| 9. Common. | |

Second, Markets.

A market was established in this town as early as the year 1676, which will appear from the following order of the General Court of Assizes, made in the month of October, 1675. "Upon proposall of having a fayre and Markett in or neare this City. (New-York) It is ordered, That after this season, there shall yearely bee kept a fayre and markett at Breucklen near the ferry, for all grayne, cattle, or other produce of the countrey, to be held the first Munday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, in November; and in the City of New-York, the Thursday, Friday, and Saturday following."

Previous to the year 1814, there were two markets in this place; one of which was situate at the foot of the old ferry-street; and the other at the foot of Main-street.⁶⁶ Both these markets were taken down in 1814.

At present we have no public market; the inhabitants are supplied from several butcher's shops for the sale of meat, and stands for vegetables, scattered about in different parts of the village.—The people have been for some time past endeavouring to obtain a public market, and the great difficulty appears to be the location of a proper site. At a village meeting, held June 26, 1824, the sum of \$10,000 was voted to erect a brick market house and Village Hall, with other offices. This amount it was resolved, should be raised by a loan for not less than ten years, at six per cent; and that the proceeds of the market arising from the letting of stalls, &c. should be appropriated to paying the interest of said loan; and that if in process of time there should be a surplus, after paying the interest, the same should be converted into a sinking fund for extinguishing the principal. These resolutions have not as yet been carried into effect.

Third, Public Institutions.

Of public institutions we have not many to boast—they may be strictly confined to one Bank, a Fire Insurance Company, and an Apprentices' Library.

The "Long-Island Bank" was incorporated, April 1st, 1824, with a capital of \$300,000, divided into six thousand shares of \$50 each. The present officers are, Leffert Lefferts, Esq. President, and D. Embury, Cashier.

The "Brooklyn Fire Insurance Company" was incorporated, April 3, 1824, with a capital of \$150,000, divided into six thousand shares of \$25 each. The present officers of this institution are, William Furman, President, and Freeman Hopkins, Secretary.

There is also in this village a branch of the "Equitable Fire Insurance Company"; of which Abraham Vanderveer, Esq. is Agent.

The Apprentices' Library Association, which has been formed but a short time, promises to be of great benefit to the apprentices of the place, by introducing among them, habits of reading and reflection, which, if properly attended to, will enable them to support the honourable character of good citizens.

The Library at present consists of about twelve hundred volumes, which have been presented by different individuals. About one hundred apprentices take books from it, regularly once a week.—This institution was incorporated by an act of the Legislature, passed in November, 1824. The present officers are,

Robert Snow, President; Thomas Kirk, Vice-President; Andrew Mercein, Treasurer; Robert Nicholls, Secretary.^{HH}

Under this head it may be proper to notice, that there are two Masonic lodges in this town, and a Post office.

Fortitude Lodge, No 81.—W. Levi Porter, Master.

Hohenlinden Lodge, No. 338.—W. Abiathar Young, Master.

The Post office is kept at No. 97 Fulton-street, by George L. Birch, Esq. Post Master. The mail is carried daily (Sundays excepted) between Brooklyn and New-York, and closes at Brooklyn at 8 A. M. and arrives at 4 P. M.

POPULATION AND INCREASE.

Within a few years this town, and particularly the village has increased very rapidly. In 1814, the town of Brooklyn contained 3805 inhabitants; and in 1816, the town contained 4402 inhabitants. In 1820, the census was as follows, (being almost two thirds of the population of the County.)

White males, under 10 years of age,	876	
do between 10 and 16	376	
do between 16 and 26	717	
do between 26 and 45	961	
do between 45 and upwards	379	
	<hr/>	3309
White females, under 10 years of age,	876	
do between 10 and 16	398	
do between 16 and 26	705	
do between 26 and 45	961	
do between 45 and upwards	379	
	<hr/>	3319
Free blacks,		657
Slaves,	-	190
		<hr/>
		7475
		<hr/>

Foreigners not naturalized	252
Persons engaged in Agriculture,	264
do in Commerce,	67
do in Manufactures,	497

The following account of the population of Kings County at different periods, may not be uninteresting to many readers.

The population of Kings County in	1731 was	2150
	1756	2707
	1771	3623
	1786	3966
	1790	4495
	1800	5740
	1810	8303
	1820	11187 ^(2 4)

(24) Governor Nicolls in a letter to the Duke of York, November, 1665, informed him, " that such is the mean condition of this town, (New-York) that not one soldier to this day has lain in sheets, or upon any other bed than canvass and straw.

1678, New-York contained 343 houses, and 3430 inhabitants; and there were owned in the City, three ships, eight sloops and seven boats.

1686. The City of New-York contained 594 houses, and 6000 inhabitants; and there were owned in it, 10 three masted vessels of between 80 and 100 tons; 3 ketches, or barques, of about 40 tons; and about 20 sloops, of 25 tons. In the same year, the militia of the colony consisted of 4000 foot, 300 horse, and one company of dragoons.

1696. There were owned in the city of New-York, 40 ships, 62 sloops, and 62 boats.

In 1697, the population of New-York has considerably decreased, from what it was in 1686; the census taken this year was as follows :

Whites	{ Men,	-	946	
	{ Women,	-	1018	
	{ Young men and boys,	-	864	
	{ Young women and girls		899	
			<hr/>	3727
Blacks,	{ Men,		209	
	{ Women	-	205	
	{ Boys and girls		161	575
			<hr/>	
			Total.	4302
			<hr/>	

1731. The City of New-York contained	
White males	3771
White females,	3274 7045
	<hr/>

In 1706, There were 64 freeholders in the town of Brooklyn. In 1802, their number had only increased to 86, as appears from the list of Jurors at that period. In the year 1800, there were 253 votes given in this town, at a contested election for assemblyman. In 1824, on the same occasion 1013 votes were taken.

At the close of the Revolutionary war, the town of Brooklyn within the bounds of the present village contained 56 buildings. In 1821, the village contained 867 buildings; of which 96 were Groceries and Taverns, and several store-houses.— These store-houses depend principally, on the operation of the Quarantine laws, in the months of June, July and August, for business. On the 23d of July in the same year, there were lying at the wharves in this village, 13 ships, 9 brigs, 8 schooners, and 14 sloops. July 1, 1824, there were lying at the wharves in this village, 8 ships, 16 brigs, 20 schooners, and 12 sloops.

In 1822. 50 dwelling houses were erected in this village. In 1823, 122 frame dwelling and 32 brick and brick front buildings were erected. January 1, 1824, the village of Brooklyn contained 113 stone, brick, and brick front buildings. During the present year 143 frame dwelling-houses have been built in this village.

Black males,	-	785
Black females,		792 1577
		<hr/>
		Total. 8622
		<hr/>

1756.	The City contained 10,881 inhabitants.
1771.	It contained 21,863 inhabitants.
1786.	It contained 3340 houses, and 23,614 inhabitants.
1790.	It contained 33131 inhabitants.
1800.	60489
1810.	96373
1820.	139000

The town contains 8 Ropewalks, which manufacture 1130 tons of cordage annually; 4 Distilleries; 2 Spirits of Turpentine Distilleries; 1 Glue factory; 1 Chain cable manufactory; 2 Tanneries; 2 White lead works; 1 Whiting manufactory; 1 Glass factory and 1 Furnace for casting iron. The manufacture of Hats is conducted on a large scale in this place.

In the year 1703, a survey was made of "Broocklands improveable lands and meadows within fence," and the same was found to amount to 5177 acres. At that period the greatest holder of that description of land was Simon Aersen, who owned 200 acres. In 1706, all the real and personal estates of the town of Brooklyn were assessed at £3122 12s. 0d. The tax on which was £41 3s. 7½d and the whole tax on the county £201 16s. 1½d. In 1707, the real and personal estates of this town assessed at £3091 11s 0d, The government tax on which, was for the same year £116 7s 3d, payable in two payments; and the whole tax of the county £448 3s 7d. The present year, the real estate in this town was assessed at \$2,111,390. And the personal estate at \$488,690; being considerably more than one half of the whole value of the county. The State, county and town tax on which amounts to \$6,497 71. At this period there are in the village 1149 taxable persons, and the village tax amounts to \$2625 76, averaging about \$2 29, each taxable person. This village tax includes \$450 raised to meet the expenses of the Board of Health, and is exclusive of all local assessments for opening and improving streets, &c.

The receipts of the overseers of the poor of this town for the year 1823, amounted to \$3108 77, and their expenditures to \$3469 49, leaving a balance of \$360 72 against the town.

On the 22d of March, 1823, there were 54 persons in the Alms-house ; 51 persons were admitted during the year ending March 30, 1824. During the same period, 34 were discharged, and 10 died. March 30, 1824, there were in the Alms-house 40 persons, viz. 11 men, 16 women, 5 girls, and 8 boys. In the winter of 1823-4, 93 loads of wood were distributed from this institution among the poor of the town.⁽²⁵⁾

April 21, 1701, a piece of land about 100 feet square, lying within the present bounds of the village of Brooklyn, was sold for £75, "current money of the Province of New-York." 1720 a dwelling-house and lot of ground containing 62 feet front, 61 feet rear, and 111 feet deep, near the ferry, on the north-east side of what is now called Fulton-street, sold for £260, "current money of New-York. In the year 1784, all the property owned by the Corporation of the City of New-York in this town was assessed at £365, New-York currency ; which property is now worth \$50,000 at the lowest calculation.

August 30, 1701. John Bybon sold to Cornelius Vanderhove, for £37 10s, the one equal half part of a brewhouse, situate at Bedford, in the town of Brookland, fronting the highway leading from Bedford to Cripplebush ; together with one equal half part of all the brewing vessels, &c.

In 1685, a Windmill was erected in this town by John Vannise and Peter Hendricks, for Michael Hainell. There is great reason to believe that this was the first mill erected in this town. August 19, 1689, an agreement was entered into between Cornelius Seberingh of Brookland, and John Marsh of East Jersey, relative to building a water mill on

(25) The town is now erecting a very neat building for an Alms-house, on the property lately purchased from Leffert Lefferts, Esqr.

Graver's kill in this town. At present there are in this town seven water mills and two wind mills.— From February 16, 1823, to February 15, 1824, 5825 barrels of superfine flour, 260 barrels of fine flour, and 124 hogsheads of corn meal were inspected in this county. The most, if not all of which flour and meal was manufactured at the mills in this place.

SCHOOLS, NEWS-PAPERS, AND MORAL CHARACTER.

May 1661, Charles Debevoise was recommended by Gov. Stuyvesant as a suitable person for schoolmaster of this town, and also for clerk and sexton of the church, who was employed and received a good salary.

Immediately previous to the Revolutionary war, that part of the town of Brooklyn which is now comprised in the bounds of the village, and for some distance without those bounds, supported but one school, of 19 scholars, five of whom were out of the family of Mr. Andrew Patchen. The school-house was situated on the hill, on property which was then owned by Israel Horsfield, but now belongs to the heirs of Carey Ludlow, deceased.— The teacher was Benjamin Brown, a staunch whig from Connecticut.

District School, No. 1. This school was organized at a public meeting, held Jan. 2, 1816, at which meeting Andrew Mercein, John Seaman, and Robert Snow were elected trustees, and John Dougherty clerk of the school. The trustees were appointed a committee to ascertain a proper site for building a school-house, and report the probable expense thereof. At a meeting held January 12, 1816, the trustees reported that they could purchase four lots of ground on Concord street, of Mr. Noah Waterbury, for \$550. The meeting thereupon resolved,

that "the sum of \$2000 should be raised by tax on the inhabitants of the said district, to purchase said lots and to build a school-house thereon;" and that in the mean time the "Loisian school be the common school of the said district;" and that "the trustees of the district be authorized to exonerate from the payment of teacher's wages all such poor and indigent persons as they shall think proper, pursuant to the act of the legislature;" and that "it be recommended by this meeting, that the common school to be taught in this district, be on the Lancastrian plan of instruction."

In the school of this district, which includes the village of Brooklyn, upwards of 200 children are taught. The price of tuition does not exceed four dollars per annum, and from that amount down to nothing, in proportion to the abilities of the parent. The school District No 1, at present contains 1607, children between the ages of 5 and 15 years, of whom 1157 go to the public or private schools.

In 1821, there were eight private schools in the village of Brooklyn.

In 1823 the town received from the state \$418 13 for the support of common schools.

The present officers connected with the common schools of the town are—

Commissioners. Jordan Coles, Robert Nichols, Josiah Noyes.

Inspectors. Charles I. Doughty, Evan Beynon, Robert Snow.

Trustees of District School No. 1. William Cornwell, Joseph Sprague, Charles I. Doughty.—*Clerke*, Ralph Malbone.

Newspapers.

Four newspapers have been published in this town in the following chronological order;

June 26, 1799. The first number of the "Courier, and New-York and Long-Island Advertiser," published by Thomas Kirk, Esq. This was the first newspaper established on Long-Island."

May 26, 1806. The first number of the "Long Island Weekly Intelligencer, published by Mess'rs. Robinson and Little.

June 1, 1809. The first number of the "Long Island Star," published by Thomas Kirk, Esq.

March 7, 1821. The first number of the "Long Island Patriot," published by Geo. L. Birch, Esq.

In the month of November, 1810, proposals were issued by Benjamin F. Cowdrey, & Co. for establishing in Brooklyn a weekly newspaper, to be entitled "The Long-Island Journal, and American Freeman." For some reason unknown to the compiler this paper was not published.

During the month of May, 1820, Brockholst Livingston, jun. issued proposals for publishing a weekly newspaper in this village, to be entitled the "Long-Island Republican." Not meeting with sufficient encouragement, this attempt was abandoned.

The only two papers now in existence in this town, are "The Star,"^{jj} published by Alden Spooner, Esq. and the "Long Island Patriot,"^{kk} by George L. Birch, Esq.

Moral Character.

It is a delicate subject for a writer to treat of the morals of a people among whom he is a resident, lest by telling the truth too plainly, he awaken unpleasant feelings in the breasts of some whom perhaps he would not wish to offend. On the other hand, if glaring faults are slightly passed over, or palliated, it calls down on his devoted head all the envenomed attacks of malicious criticism. The

compiler, however, flatters himself that neither will be the case in this instance.

The people of Brooklyn, it is true, cannot be considered as rigid in religious matters as the saints of Oliver Cromwell's army, whose very cannon had on the inscription of "O, Lord, open thou our lips, and our mouth shall shew forth thy praise!" But they are far from being irreligious; the churches are well filled, religious societies are liberally supported, vice discountenanced; and for the more effectual suppression thereof, in 1815, a society for the suppression of vice and immorality was formed, consisting of many of the most respectable inhabitants of the town. By the exertions of our Sunday school societies, attached to the different congregations, the morals of the younger part of the community have been greatly reformed; and it is highly gratifying to observe the improvement made in the general morals, of the town, in consequence of their benevolent exertions.

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Although this might with some propriety be placed under the head of *Public Institutions*, the compiler has thought proper to make it a head of itself; and he hopes that the following few historical facts relative to this valuable department, may be useful to such as feel an interest in its progression and improvement.

By an act passed by the legislature of this state, March 15, 1788, "for the better extinguishing of fires in the town of Brooklyn," the number of firemen was limited to eight, who were nominated and appointed by the freeholders and inhabitants of the fire district, which was comprised within nearly the same bounds with the present village.

In the year 1794 the sum of £188 19s. 10d. was raised by subscription in this town, for purchasing a fire engine. On the 24th March in the following year, an act was passed by the legislature "for the better extinguishing of fires" in this town; by which act the number of firemen was increased to thirty.

1796. The sum of £49 4s was raised by subscription for purchasing "a suitable bell for the use of the town of Brooklyn." This is the present fire bell.

March 21, 1797, an act was passed by the legislature "for the prevention of fires, and for regulating the assize of bread, in the town of Brooklyn." This act authorised the inhabitants to choose not less than three nor more than five freeholders, who might from time to time make such prudential by-laws as they judged necessary, for the prevention of fires by the burning of chimneys, and for sweeping and otherwise cleansing the same. The inhabitants accordingly met on the second Tuesday of May, in the same year, and appointed Mess^{rs}. Henry Stanton, John Doughty, Martin Boerum, John Van Nostrand, and John Fisher, to carry into effect the provisions of the above act. In the execution of which duty the persons so appointed ordained, that from and after the 11th day of July, 1797, a fine of ten shillings should be levied on each person whose chimney should take fire through carelessness, or be set on fire for the purpose of cleansing; and that "all penalties shall be received and recovered by the clerk of the fire company for the time being, if he be one of the persons so chosen; if not, the said persons elected shall nominate and appoint one of their number to serve for and receive in the same manner that the clerk is at present authorized." From 1798 to August 6, 1806, the sum of £20 7s. was received for chimney fines.

For a considerable length of time, this town had but one small fire engine; they subsequently purchased another, which was called No. 2. About 1810, No. 3, now styled the "Franklin," was purchased by the inhabitants of the Fire District. The Fire Department of the village at present consists of four Fire Engines (of which three are new, namely, Nos. 1, 2, and 4,) and a Hook and Ladder Company, viz.

No. 1, "Washington," full complement 30 men, Foreman, Joshua Sutton.

No. 2, "Neptune," full complement 30 men, Foreman, Gamaliel King.

No. 3, "Franklin," full complement 30 men, Foreman, Jeremiah Wells.

No. 4, "Eagle," full complement 30 men, Foreman, George Fricke.

Hook and Ladder Company, full complement 30 men, Foreman, John Smith.

There are also in the Navy Yard, two excellent Fire Engines, well manned, and which, together with those from New-York, generously come to our assistance when ever our place is visited by that dreadful calamity, fire.

The receipts of the Fire Department, from 1794 to 1815, amounted to £898 10s. 1d. and the expenditures from July 7, 1795, to November 15, 1816, amounted to £964 3s. 3d.

The office of Clerk and Treasurer of the Fire Department of this town, was held by John Hicks, Esq. until 1796; at which time John Doughty, Esq. was appointed, who held that office until the incorporation of the village in 1816, when he was appointed Chief Engineer of the Fire Department of the village, which office he held for one year. In 1817, William Furman, Esq. was appointed Chief Engineer, and officiated in that capacity until 1821, when, on the resignation of Mr. Furman, John

Doughty, Esq. was again appointed, and continues to hold the office. The present officers of the Fire Department are,

John Doughty, Chief Engineer.

Fire Wardens. Joseph Moser, Edward Coope, Joseph Sprague.

April 16, 1823, an act was passed by the Legislature of this state to incorporate the firemen of this village, by the name of the "Fire Department of the Village of Brooklyn." The act allows this corporation to hold, purchase, and convey any estate, real or personal for the use of the corporation; provided such real or personal estate shall not at any time exceed the yearly value of \$1000. The following officers were appointed by the act of incorporation, viz.

John Doughty, President.

Joshua Sutton, Vice-President.

Richard Cornwell, Secretary.

Trustees. Jeremiah Wells, Morris Simonson, Michael Trapple, Joseph Moser, George Fricke, Gamaliel King, Simeon Back, Parshall Wells, George L. Birch.

The laudable object proposed by this institution, is to raise a fund for the relief of widows and children of deceased firemen.

By an amendment to the act of Incorporation of the village of Brooklyn, passed April 9, 1824, it is provided, "That all fines and penalties under any by-law of the said village, in relation to the burning of chimneys, and for the preventing and extinguishing of fires, and also, all fines and penalties either under such by-laws, or under any statute of this state, in relation to the manner of keeping and transporting gun-powder within the said village, shall be sued for in the name of the said Trustees, (of the village of Brooklyn) by the fire department

of the said village, and when recovered shall be paid to the said fire department, for their own use."

MISCELLANEOUS.

June 7, 1625, Sarah De Rapalje, born in this town. Tradition says that she was the first white child born in the colony. Her parents were Walloons; from whence is derived the name of Wallaboght, or Walloons Bay, where they lived.⁽²⁶⁾ She was twice married. Her first husband was Hans Hanse Bergen, by whom she had six children, viz. Michael Hanse, Joris Hanse, Jan Hanse, Jacob Hanse, Brechje Hanse, and Marytje Hanse. Her second husband was Teunis Guysbertse Bogart, by whom she also had six children, viz. Aurtie Bogart, Antje Bogart, Neeltje Bogart, Aultje Bogart, Cate-lyntje Bogart, and Guysbert Bogart. The account of Sarah De Rapelje in the archives of the New-York Historical Society contains the names of the persons to whom eleven of her children were married, and tells the places where they settled. The twelfth, Brechje Hanse went to Holland.^{LL}

March 1, 1665, Hendrick Lubbertson and John Evertsen, appeared as deputies from the town of Brooklyn, at the Assembly convened at Hempstead, by order of Richard Nicolls, Deputy Governor under the Duke of York; at which assembly the code of laws called the "Duke's Laws" were adopted and published. In the appendix marked E. will be found the address which these deputies, together with the others, sent to the Duke of York; and which occasioned so much excitement in the Colony at that period.

(26) The first settlement in this town was made by George Jansen De Rapalje, the father of Sarah in 1625, on the farm which is now owned by the family of the Schencks at the Wallaboght.^{MM}

1671, This town, with five other towns in the West Riding of Yorkshire upon Long-Island, petitioned the Court of Sessions "for liberty to transport wheate," which petition was referred to the Governor.

1687. The Clerk's office of Kings County was kept in this town, by the Deputy Register, Jacob Vandewater, who was also a Notary Public in this town at the same period. The Register, Samuel Bayard, Esq. resided in the city of New-York.

About the year 1691, there was a custom prevalent in this town of calling a widow the "last wife" of her deceased husband; and a widower the "last man" of his deceased wife.

The following is an Inventory of the estate which a bride in this town brought with her to her husband in the year 1691. The husband by various records appears to have been a man of considerable wealth; notwithstanding which, the following inventory was thought by both of them, of sufficient importance to merit being recorded, viz.

"A half worn bed, pillow, 2 cushions of ticking with feathers, one rug, 4 sheets, 4 cushion covers, 2 iron potts, 3 pewter dishes, 1 pewter bason, 1 iron roaster, 1 schuryn spoon, 2 cowes about five yeares old, 1 case or cupboard, 1 table."

November 12, 1695, the Court of Sessions for Kings County, ordered that the Constable of this towns, "shall on Sunday or Sabbathday take law for the apprehending of all Sabbath breakers," and "search all ale houses, taverns and other suspected places for all prophaners and breakers of the Sabbath daye," and bring them before a Justice of the Peace to be dealt with according to law. This was to be done by the Constable under the penalty of six shillings for each neglect or default.

The same Court also made an order, "that Mad James be kept by Kings County in General, and that the deacons of each towne within the said county doe forthwith meet together and consider about their propercons for maintainence of said James." This is the first instance which has come to the compiler's knowledge of the Court making an order for the county generally to support a pauper.

In the year 1758, the sum of £122 18s. 7d. was assessed in two assessments, by the Justices of the Peace, on this town, towards building "a new Court house and gaol" for Kings County. The whole amount assessed on the County was £448 4s. 1d.

The present Court house of Kings County, was built by contract in the year 1792, at an expense of \$2944, 71, under the superintendence of John Vanderbilt, Johannes E. Lott, and Charles Dougherty, Esq's. The contractor was Thomas Fardon, and plans were furnished for the building by Messrs. Stanton and Newton, and James Robertson.⁽²⁷⁾^{NN}

(27) In 1700 the Court House was let to James Simson for one year, at £3 "in mooney." In this agreement, "the Justices reserved for themselves the Chamber in the said house, called the Court Chamber, at the time of their publique Sessions, Courts of Common Pleas, and private meetings; as also the room called the prison for the use of the Sheriff, if he hath occasion for it."

APPENDIX.

A.

*Deed from William Morris and wife to the Corporation
of New-York.*

This Indenture made the twelfth day of October, in the sixth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord and Lady William and Mary, by the grace of God, of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, King and Queen, defenders of the faith, &c. and in the year of our Lord one thousand six hundred and ninety-four, between William Morris, now of the ferry, in the bounds of the town of Breuchlen, in Kings County, on Long-Island, Gentleman, and Rebecca his wife of the one part, and the Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty of the City of New-York, of the other part, Witnesseth, that the said William Morris, by and with the consent of Rebecca his said wife, testified by her being a party to the sealing and delivery of these presents, for, and in consideration of a certain sum of good and lawful money to him, at and before the sealing and delivery hereof, by the said Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty, in hand well and truly paid, the receipt whereof he the said William Morris doth hereby acknowledge, and thereof and therefrom and of and from all and every part thereof, he doth hereby acquit, exonerate and discharge the said Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty, and their successors forever, hath granted, bargained, sold, assigned, conveyed and confirmed, and by these presents doth grant, bargain, sell, assign, convey and confirm unto the said Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty of the said city of New-York, and their successors forever, All that messuage or dwelling house and lot of ground thereunto adjoining and belonging, with the appurtenances, situate, lying and being at the ferry, in the bounds of the town of Breucklen, in Kings County aforesaid, now and late in the possession of him, the said William

Morris; as also one small house, now in the possession of one Thomas Hock, lying in the said City of New-York, over against the ferry aforesaid, Together with all and singular houses, barns, stables, yards, backsides, wharfs, easements, benefits, emoluments, hereditaments, and appurtenances to the same messuage or dwelling house and premises belonging, or in any wise appertaining, and the reversion and reversions, remainder and remainders, rents, issues, and profits of all and singular the premisses and the appurtenances, and all the estate, right, title interest, property, possession, claim and demand of him the said William Morris and Rebecca his said wife, of, in, unto or out of the said messuage, or dwelling house and premises, or, of, in, unto, or out of, all or any part or parcel thereof, and all and singular grants, deeds, escripts, minuments, writings and evidences, touching, relating to or concerning the above-mentioned, to be bargained, messuage or dwelling house and all and singular, the premises with the hereditaments and appurtenances to the same belonging, or any part thereof, unto the said Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty of the City of New-York, aforesaid, and their successors unto the only proper use, benefit and behoof of the said Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty of the City of New-York aforesaid, their successors and assigns forever. In witness, &c. (28)

A Warrant for enforcing the payment of a town tax in the town of Brooklyn.

Whereas there was an order or towne lawe by the freeholders of the towne of Brooklyn, in Kings County aforesaid, the 5th day of May, 1701, ffor constituting

(28) The above deed to the Corporation of New-York did not extend to the River. January 15, 1717, Samuel Garritsen, of Gravesend, quit-claimed to David Aersen of Brooklyn, all his right and title to a piece of land, "lying next to the house and land belonging to the City of New-York, bounded north-west by the River, south-east by the highway that goes to the ferry, south-west by the house and land belonging to the City of New-York, and north-east by the house and land belonging to the said John Rapalje, containing one acre be the same more or less." On the 16th day of the same month, David Aersen sold this property to Gerrit Harsum of New-York, Gunsmith, for the sum of £108 current money of New-York.

and appointing of Trustees to defend the rights of their quondam common wood lands, and to raise a tax for the same to defray the charge of that and their town debts, &c. which said lawe has bin since further confirmed by said freeholders at a towne meeting at Bedford, the 11th of Aprill, 1702, and since approved of and confirmed by a Court of Sessions, held at Flatbush, in said County the 13th day of May, 1702. And whereas by virtue of said lawe, a certaine small tax was raised on the freeholders in said towne proportionably to defray the charges aforesaid: And now upon complaint of the said Trustees to us made, that A. B. has refused to pay his juste and due proporceon of said tax wch amounts to £1 16s 0d, current money of New-York. These are therefore in her Majesty's name, to command you to summons A. B. personally to be and appeare before us, &c., then and there to answer C. D. E. F. Trustees of said towne of Brooklin, in an action of trespasse on the case, to the damage of the said C. D. E. F. £1 16s 0d, current money as aforesaid, as it is said, and have with you then there this precept. Given, &c.

B.

Brookland, November 14th, 1753. A Town meeting called by warrant of Carel Debevois, Esq. and Jacobus Debevois, Esq. two of his Majesty's Justices for the township of Brookland, in the County of Kings, to elect and chuse Trustees to defend our Patent of Brookland against the Commonalty of the City of New-York.— And the Trustees so elected and chosen by the freeholders and inhabitants of the township of Brookland aforesaid, are as follows: Jacobus Lefferts, Peter Vandervoort, Jacob Remsen, Rem Remsen, and Nicholas Vechte. And we the hereunder subscribers being freeholders and inhabitants of the township of Brookland, by these presents do fully impower and authorize the abovesaid Trustees, Jacobus Lefferts, Peter Vandervoort, Jacob Remsen, Rem Remsen, and Nicholas Vechte, elected and chosen by the freeholders and inhabitants of the township of Brookland aforesaid, to de-

fend our patent where in any manner our liberties, privileges and rights in our patent specified is inroached, lessened or taken away by the Commonalty of the City of New York. And that we hereunder subscribers of the township of Brookland, oblige ourselves, our heirs, executors and administrators to pay to the abovesaid Trustees, all cost that they are at in protecting of the profits of our patent, and that money shall be collected in by the constable of our town. And that the abovesaid Trustees do oblige themselves to render upon oath a true account of all such moneys they have expended in protecting or defending our patent, to any person or persons, as the hereunder subscribers shall appoint for that purpose. And in defending our patent so that verdict shall come in our favour, where income of money or other profits should arise concerning the premises, all such profits or income should be kept towards defraying of all the necessary cost and charge of our township of Brookland, till such time as it is altered by the majority. And that the Trustees should have three shillings per day for their service and no more.

C.

The Petition of Volkert Brier.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY.—The humble peticon of Volkert Brier, inhabitant of the towne of Broockland, on the Island of Nassau.

May it please your Excellency your peticoner being fined five pound last Court of Sessions, in Kings County for tearing an execucion directed to him as Constable. Your peticoner being ignorant of the crime, and not thinking it was of force when he was out of his office, or that he should have made retorne of it as the lawe directs, he being an illiterate man could not read said execucion nor understand any thing of lawe: humbly prays yr Excellency yt you would be pleased to remit said fine of five pounds, yr peticoner being a poore man and not capaciated to pay said fine without great damage to himself and family. And for yr Excellecy yr peticoner will ever pray, &c.

D.

A Letter from Justice Ffilkin to the Secretary at New-York.

SIR,—I am in expectation of a complaint coming to his Excellency by Coll. Beeckman against me, and that his Excellency may be rightly informed of the matter, my humble request to you is, that if such a thing happen, be pleased to give his Excellency an account thereof, which is as follows: A Ffriday night last, the Justices of the County and I came from his Excellency's; Coll. Beeckman happened to come over in the ferry boat along with us, and as we came over the ferry, Coll. Beeckman and we went into the ferry house to drink a glass of wine, and being soe in company, there happened a dispute between Coll. Beeckman and myself, adout his particular order that he lately made to Mr. Ffreeman, when he was President of the Councill, without the consent of the Councill; Coll. Beeckman stood to affirm there, before most of the Justices of Kings County, that said order, that he made then to Mr. Ffreeman as President only, was still in fforce, and that Mr. Ffreeman should preach at Broockland next Sunday according to that order; whereupon I said it was not in fforce, but void and of noe effect, and he had not in this County, any more power now than I have, being equall in commission with him in the general commission of the peace and one of the quorum as well as he; upon which he gave me affronting words, giving me the lie and calling me pittifull fellow, dog, rogue, rascall, &c. which caused me, being overcome with passion, to tell him that I had a good mind to knock him off his horse, we being both at that time getting upon our horses to goe home, but that I would not goe, I would fight him at any time with a sword. I could wish that these last words had bin kept in, and I am troubled that I was soe overcome with passion and inflamed with wine. The works of these Dutch ministers is the occasion of all our quarrells.(28) And this

(28) The compiler congratulates his fellow citizens on the extinction of those national animosities which in former times existed between the Dutch and English in this our happy country. We may now truly ask with Sterne, "are we not all relations?"

is the truth of the matter, there was no blows offered, nor noe more done. Mr. Ffreeman has preached at Broockland yesterday accordingly, and the church doore was broke open, by whom it is not yet knowne. Soe I beg your pardon ffor this trouble, crave your favour in this matter, and shall alwayes remaine.

Sir, your ffaithful and humble servant,
H. FFILKIN.

[E]

The Address of the Deputies, assembled at Hempstead.

We the deputies duly elected from the several towns upon Long-Island, being assembled at Hempstead, in general meeting, by authority derived from your royal highness unto the honorable Colonel Nicolls, as deputy governor, do most humbly and thankfully acknowledge to your royal highness, the great honor and satisfaction we receive in our dependence upon your royal highness according to the tenor of his sacred majesty's patent, granted the 12th day of March, 1664; wherein we acknowledge ourselves, our heirs and successors forever, to be comprised to all intents and purposes, as therein is more at large expressed. And we do publicly and unanimously declare our cheerful submission to all such laws, statutes and ordinances, which are or shall be made by virtue of authority from your royal highness, your heirs and successors forever: As also, that we will maintain, uphold, and defend, to the utmost of our power, and peril of us, our heirs and successors forever, all the rights, title, and interest, granted by his sacred majesty to your royal highness, against all pretenensions or invasions, foreign or domestic; we being already well assured, that, in so doing, we perform our duty of allegiance to his majesty, as freeborn subjects of the kingdom of England inhabiting in these his majesty's dominions. We do further beseech your royal highness to accept of this address, as the first fruits in this general meeting, for a memorial and record against us, our heirs and successors, when we or any of them shall fail in our duties. Lastly we beseech your royal high-

ness to take our poverties and necessities, in this wilderness country, into speedy consideration; that, by constant supplies of trade, and your royal highnesses more particular countenance of grace to us, and protection of us, we may daily more and more be encouraged to bestow our labors to the improvement of these his majesty's western dominions, under your royal highness; for whose health, long life, and eternal happiness, we shall ever pray, as in duty bound.

List of the Deputies.

New-Utrecht	Jaques Cortelleau	Younger Hope
Gravesend	James Hubbard	John Bowne
Flatlands	Elbert Elbertsen	Roeloffe Martense
Flatbush	John Striker	Hendrick Gucksen
Bushwick	John Stealman	Gisbert Tunis
Brooklyn	Hendrick Lubbertsen	John Evertsen
Newtown	Richard Betts	John Coe
Flushing	Elias Doughty	Richard Cornhill
Jamaica	Daniel Denton	Thomas Benedict
Hempstead	John Hicks	Robert Jackson
Oysterbay	John Underhill	Matthias Harvey
Huntington	Jonas Wood	John Ketcham
Brookhaven	Daniel Lane	Roger Barton
Sonhold	William Wells	John Youngs
Sonthampton	Thomas Topping	John Howell
Easthampton	Thomas Baker	John Stratton
Westchester	Edward Jessup	— Quinby

The people of Long-Island considered the language of this address as too servile for freemen; and were exasperated against the makers of it to such a degree that the court of assizes, in order to save the deputies from abuse, if not from personal violence, thought it expedient, at their meeting in October 1666, to declare that "whosoever hereafter shall any wayes detract or speake against any of the deputies signing the address to his royall highnes, at the general meeting at Hempstead, they shall bee presented to the next court of sessions, and if the justices shall see cause, they shall

from thence bee bound over, to the assizes, there to answer for the slander upon plaint or information."

The deputies subsequently to the address made to the duke of York, made one to the people, in which they set forth their reasons for agreeing to the code styled the duke's laws.

APPENDIX, No. 2.

The following is a copy of the first charter by which the corporation obtained any color of title to the land between high and low water mark, on the Brooklyn side.

"Anne, by the grace of God, of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, Queen, defender of the Faith, &c. To all whom these presents may in any wise concern, sendeth greeting. Whereas the mayor, aldermen, and commonalty of the city of New-York, by their petition to our trusty and well-beloved consin Edward, Viscount Cornbury,⁽²⁹⁾ our captain general and governor in chief in and over our province of New-York, and territories depending thereon in America, and Vice Admiral of the same, &c. preferred in council; therein setting forth, that they having a right and interest, under divers antient charters and grants, by divers former governors and commanders in chief of our said province of New-York,⁽³⁰⁾ under our noble progenitors, in a cer-

(29) "Lord Cornbury came to this province in very indigent circumstances, bunted out of England by a host of hungry creditors, he was bent on getting as much money as he could squeeze out of the purses of an impoverished people." He was infamous for his "excessive avarice his embezzlement of the public money, and his sordid refusal to pay his private debts." Cornbury became so obnoxious to the inhabitants of this province, that they sent a complaint to England against him. The Queen in consequence of this complaint displaced him. "As soon as his lordship was superseded, his creditors threw him into the custody of the sheriff of New-York." See Smith's History of New-York. Such was the man from whom the corporation of New-York obtained the rights of the town of Brooklyn.

(30) These "divers former governors," &c. are limited to two, viz. Nicolls, who in 1665 granted them a charter, if that may be strictly called so, which only altered their form of government from scout, burgomasters, and schepens, to mayor and aldermen, without a word about ferries or water rights, or indeed any other matter—the original of which paper is not in existence. There is nothing to warrant a belief that there was a charter of any kind granted to the corporation between Nicolls and Dongan, who is the second of these "divers former governors," &c. and who in 1686 granted them the ferry, (as is mentioned in a former part of this work) with an express reservation as to the rights of all others. The charter of Dongan, notwithstanding all their pompous recitals, is the oldest they can produce, which in any manner affects the interests of this town.

tain ferry from the said city of New-York, over the East River, to Nassau Island, (alias Long-Island) and from the said Island to the said city again, and have possessed the same, and received all the profits benefits and advantages thereof for the space of fifty years and upwards; and perceiving the profits, advantages, and benefits usually issuing out of the same, to diminish, decrease, and fall short of what might be reasonably made of the same, for the want of the bounds and limits to be extended and enlarged on the said Island side, whereby to prevent divers persons transporting themselves and goods to and from the said Island Nassau (alias Long Island) over the said river, without coming or landing at the usual and accustomed places, where the ferry boats are usually kept and appointed, to the great loss and damage of the said city of New-York; have humbly prayed our grant and confirmation, under the great seal of our said province of New-York, of the said ferry, called the Old Ferry, on both sides of the said East River, for the transporting of passengers, goods, horses and cattle, to and from the said city, as the same is now held and enjoyed by the said mayor, aldermen and commonalty of the said city of New-York, or their under tenant, or under tenants; and also of all that vacant and unappropriated land, from high water mark to low water mark, on the said Nassau Island (alias Long Island) lying contiguous and fronting the said city of New York, from a certain place called the Wall-about, unto the Red Hook, over against Nutten Island, for the better improvement and accommodation of the said ferry; with full power, leave and license to set up, establish, maintain, and keep one or more ferry, or ferries, for the ease and accommodation of all passengers and travellers, for the transportation of themselves, goods, horses and cattle, over the said river, within the bounds aforesaid, as they shall see meet and convenient, and occasion require; and to establish, ordain and make, bye laws, orders, and ordinances for the due and orderly regulation of the same: The which petition we being minded to grant, Know Ye, That of our especial grace, certain knowledge and meer motion, we have

given, granted, ratified and confirmed, and in and by these presents, for us, our heirs and successors, we do give, grant, ratify and confirm, unto the said mayor, aldermen and commonalty of the city of New-York, and to their successors and assigns, all that the said ferry, called the Old Ferry, on both sides of the said East River for the transportation of passengers, goods, horses and cattle, over the said river, to and from the said city and island, as the same is now used, held and enjoyed, by the said mayor, aldermen and commonalty of the city of New-York, or their under tenant or under tenants, with all and singular the usual and accustomed ferriage, fees, perquisites, rents, issues, profits, and other benefits and advantages whatsoever, to the said Old ferry belonging, or therewith used, or thereout arising; and also all that the aforesaid vacant and unappropriated ground, lying and being on the said Nassau Island (alias Long-Island) from high water mark to low water mark aforesaid, contiguous and fronting the said city of New-York, from the aforesaid place called the Wallabout to Red Hook aforesaid; that is to say, from the east side of the Wallabout, opposite the now dwelling house of James Bobine, to the west side of the Red Hook, commonly called the Fishing-place, with all and singular the appurtenances and hereditaments to the same belonging, or in any wise of right appertaining; together with all and singular the rents, issues, profits, advantages, and appurtenances, which heretofore have, now are, & which hereafter shall belong to the said ferry, vacant land, and premises, herein before granted and confirmed, or to any or either of them, in any wise appertaining, or which heretofore have been, now are, and which hereafter shall belong, be used, held, received, and enjoyed; and all our estate, right, title and interest, benefit and advantage, claim and demand, of, in or to the said ferry, vacant land and premises, or any part or parcel thereof, & the reversion & reversions, remainder and remainders; together with the yearly, and other rents, revenues and profits of the premises, and of every part and parcel thereof, except and always reserved out of this our present grant and confirmation,

free liberty, leave and license to and for all and every person or persons, inhabiting or having plantations near the said river, by the water side, within the limits and bounds above mentioned, to transport themselves, goods, horses, and cattle, over the said river, to and from the said city of New-York, and Nassau Island (alias Long-Island) to and from their respective dwellings or plantations, without any ferriage, or other account to the said ferry, hereby granted and confirmed, to be paid or given; so always as the said person or persons do transport themselves only, and their own goods, in their own boats only, and not any stranger or their goods, horses or cattle, or in any other boat. To have and to hold, all and singular the said ferry, vacant land and premises, herein before granted and confirmed, or meant, mentioned, or intended to be hereby granted and confirmed (except as is herein before excepted) and all and singular the rents, issues, profits, rights, members and appurtenances, to the same belonging, or in any wise of right appertaining, unto the said mayor, aldermen and commonalty of the city of New-York, and their successors and assigns forever; to the only proper use and behoof of the said mayor, aldermen, and commonalty of the city of New-York, and their successors, and assigns forever; to be holden of us, our heirs and successors, in free and common soccage, as of our manour of East-Greenwich, in the County of Kent, within our kingdom of England; yielding, rendering, and paying unto us, our heirs and successors, for the same, yearly, at our custom-house of New-York, to our collector and receiver general there for the time being, at or upon the feast of the nativity of St John the Baptist, the yearly rent or sum of five shillings, current money of New-York. And we do further, of our especial grace, certain knowledge and meer motion, for us, our heirs and successors, give and grant unto the said mayor, aldermen and commonalty, and their successors, full and free leave and license to set up, establish, keep, and maintain one or more ferry or ferries, as they shall from time to time think fit and convenient, within the limits and bounds aforesaid, for the ease and accommo-

dation of transporting of passengers, goods, horses and cattle, between the said city of New-York and the said Island (except as is herein before excepted) under such reasonable rates and payments as have been usually paid and received for the same ; or which at any time hereafter, shall be by them established, by and with the consent and approbation of our governor and council of our said province, for the time being.⁽³¹⁾ And we do further, of our especial grace, certain knowledge, and meer motion, give, and grant unto the said mayor, aldermen, and commonalty of the city of New-York, and their successors, full and absolute power and authority, to make, ordain, establish, constitute and confirm, all manner of by-laws, orders, rules, ordinances and directions, for the more orderly keeping, and regularly maintaining the aforesaid ferry that now is kept, or any ferry or ferries which shall at any time or times hereafter, be set up, established, or kept within the bounds aforesaid, by virtue hereof, or of, for, touching or concerning the same, (so always as the same be not contrary to our laws of England, and of our province of New-York) and the same at all times hereafter to put in execution, or abrogate, revoke, or change, as they in their good discretion shall think fit, and most convenient, for the due and orderly keeping, regulating and governing the said ferry or ferries herein before mentioned. And lastly, our will and pleasure is, and we do hereby declare and grant, that these our letters patent, or the record thereof, in the secretary's office of our said province of New-York, shall be good and effectual in the law, to all intents and purposes whatsoever, notwithstanding the not true and well reciting or mentioning of the premises, or any part thereof, or the limits and bounds thereof, or of any former or other letters patents, or grants whatsoever, made or granted ; or of any part thereof, by us, or any of our progenitors, unto any person or persons whatsoever, bodies politic or

(31) The corporation of New-York appear to have abandoned the right of regulating the rate of ferriage very early ; for in 1717, nine years after the date of this charter, an act was passed by the colonial legislature for that purpose.

corporate,⁽³²⁾ or any law or other restraint, incertainty, or imperfection whatsoever, to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding, and although express mention of the true yearly value, or certainty of the premises, or of any of them, or of any other gifts or grants by us or by any of our progenitors, heretofore made to the said mayor, aldermen, and commonalty of the city of New-York, in these presents, is not made, or any other matter, cause, or thing whatsoever, to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding. In testimony whereof, we have caused these our letters to be made patent, and the seal of our said province of New-York, to our said letters patent to be affixed, and the same to be recorded, in the secretary's office of our said province.—Witness our right trusty and well-beloved cousin, Edward Viscount Cornbury, captain general and governor in chief in and over our province of New-York aforesaid, and territories thereon depending in America, and vice admiral of the same, &c. in council, at our Fort, in New-York, the nineteenth day of April, in the seventh year of our reign, Annoq. Domini one thousand seven hundred and eight. CORNBURY.

At the time of printing that part of this work under the head of "Common lands and the division thereof," the compiler was not aware of the existence of the following proceeding relating to the division of the said lands, he has therefore placed the same in this appendix.

"At a towne meeting held this twentieth day of Aprill, 1697, at Bedford within the jurisdiction of Broockland, in Kings County, upon the Island of Nassau, Resolved by all the freeholders of the towne of Broockland aforesaid, that all their common land not yet laid out or divided, belonging to their whole patent shall be equally divided and laid

(32) This clause was undoubtedly inserted to obviate, if possible, the claim under the two Brooklyn patents, both of which were many years older than this charter.

out to each freeholders of saide towne, his just proportion in all the common lands abovesaid, except those that have but an house and a home lott, which are only to have but half share of the lands aforesaid. And for the laying out of the said lands there are chosen and appointed by the freeholders abovesaid, Capt. Henry Ffilkin, Jacobus Vanderwater, Daniel Rapale, Joris Hansen, John Dorlant, and Cornelius Vanduyne. It is further ordered that noe men within this township abovesaid, shall have privilege to sell his part of the undivided lands of Broockland not yet laid out, to any person living without the township abovesaid. It is likewise ordered, consented to, and agreed by the towne meeting aforesaid, that Capt. Henry Ffilkin shall have a full share with any or all the freeholders aforesaid, in all the common land or woods in the whole patent of the towne of Broockland aforesaid, besides a half share for his home lott; To have and to hold to him, his heirs and assigns forever. It is likewise ordered, that noe person whatsoever within the common woods of the jurisdiction of Brookland aforesaid, shall cutt or fall any oake or chesnut saplings for fire wood during the space of foure years from the date hereof upon any of the said common lands or woods within the jurisdiction of Broockland patent, upon the penalty of six shillings in money, for every waggon load of saplings abovesaid soe cutt, besides the forfeiture of the wood or timber soe cutt as abovesaid, the one half thereof to the informer, and the other half for the use of the poor of the town of Broockland aforesaid.

By order of the towne meeting aforesaid,
and Justice Henry Ffilkin,
JACOBUS VANDEWATER, Towne Clerk."

ADVERTISEMENT.

The Compiler here closes his notes, and has only to remark, that throughout the whole of this little work, he has been less solicitous about his reputation as an author, than a correct compiler. Studies of this nature are but ill calculated to admit of a luxuriance of diction or sentiment, and to these he has in no place aspired. His business was to collect authentic information concerning subjects at once obscure and interesting, and in what degree he has effected this object he leaves his readers to determine, feeling conscious himself, that however imperfectly he may have executed his design, his only aim was the public good.

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ILLUSTRATIVE NOTES.

^A *Metowcas*, a mis-print for *Matowacs*, or *Matouwacks*, the earliest known Indian name of Long Island, and synonymous with the more modern word *Montauk*. The letter *a*, in Flemish, has the sound of *au* in English; thus *ja*, meaning "yes," was pronounced by our early colonists as if spelled *yau*. It can easily be understood, therefore, how, in the course of time, and by the broad Dutch pronunciation, the original *Matouwacks* became *Montauk*, which, from being originally the general name of the whole Island, is now only applied to the eastern extremity of the same. In the Map of Cornelis Hendrickse's voyage, dated 1616, and discovered by Mr. Brodhead in the Archives of the Hague, the eastern extremity of the Island is named *Nahicans*, (or Mohegans,) showing that the earliest Dutch Navigators considered the Long-Island Indians as belonging to the Mohegan race, which they already knew to inhabit the neighborhood of Fort Orange (Albany) and the Connecticut territory. In this supposition they were correct. But, at this time, as appears from this map, Long-Island was supposed to be a collection of islands, an error into which the early navigators, sailing along its northern and southern shores, and seeing its numerous creeks, bays and inlets—without any more intimate knowledge of the interior, had quite naturally fallen. Subsequent investigation, however, and a better acquaintance with the Island and its natives, corrected this error; and Long-Island, in subsequent maps of the New-Netherlands, gradually assumes its natural and proper appearance, emerging, in Vander Donck's Map of 1656, with tolerably correct proportions, and the name of "*Lange Eylandt, alias Matowacs.*"

^B The Indian name of the territory of Brooklyn was *Meryckawick*, or "the sandy place;" from *me*, the article in the Algonquin dialect; *reckwa*, sand, and *ick*, locality. The name was probably applied, at first, to the bottom land, or beach; and what

is now Wallabout Bay, was formerly called "The boght of Mareckawick." O'Callaghan supposes that the Indians who inhabited that part of the present city of Brooklyn, derived their tribal name from the bay; but we are inclined to the opinion that the appellation was by no means so limited, for the present name of Rockaway, in another part of the county, seems to have the same derivation.

^c *Cortelyou House.* This building is still standing on the west side of Fifth Avenue, near Fourth street, and on the east side of the old Gowanus road. It is constructed mainly of stone brick, the date of its erection, 1699, being indicated by iron figures secured to the outside of its gable. As near as can be ascertained, Claes (or Nicholas) Adriaentse Van Vechten, an emigrant from Norch, in the province of Drenthe, Holland, owned the plantation on which the house is located, and probably erected the building. Previous to, and about the period of, the American Revolution, the property was owned by Nicholas Vechte, grandson of old Claes, the emigrant; and in 1790, Nicholas R. Cowenhoven, one of his heirs, sold the house and a portion of the farm to Peter J. Cortelyou, who resided on the premises until 1804, when, unfortunately, having become insane, he committed suicide by hanging himself from the limb of a pear tree in the orchard adjoining the house. After his death, the property was divided by his sons Adrian and Jacques, the latter taking the portion on which the old house was located, in which he resided until the enhanced value of the property, caused by the rapid spread of the city, induced him to dispose of it to parties who have divided it into city lots.

In this connection we may as well refute the popular tradition which states this house to have been the head-quarters of Generals Washington and Putnam prior to, or during the battle of Long-Island. The fact is, that Washington's head-quarters were in New-York; and although he went over to Brooklyn after the commencement of the unfortunate battle of Long-Island, on the 27th of August, 1776, there is no evidence or probability that he went outside of the American lines, which extended from the Wallabout to the Gowanus Mill-Creek. Putnam, also, had his

head-quarters within the lines, near to the ferry. There was undoubtedly some fighting in the vicinity of this house, as one writer says "the British had several field pieces stationed by a brick house, and were pouring canister and grape on the Americans crossing the Creek." This building, therefore, must be the one referred to, as there was no other one, answering to the description, in the vicinity.

^D This building stood on the west side of Fulton street, just below Nassau, and was a large edifice, constructed of small brick, said to have been brought from Holland. It was demolished in 1832, and was considered equally ancient with the Cortelyou or Vechte house.

^E A MSS. note by Jeremiah Johnson, Esq., on the margin of this leaf, in his own copy of these "Notes," states that this house was built by Jeremiah Remsen Vanderbeek, who came from Holland in 1649, and settled at the Wallabout, where he married a daughter of Jeronimus Rapelje. He also owned all the land on the west side of Fulton street to old Fort Swift. The Middaghs, Hickses, and Remsens inherited their property from this Jeremiah Remsen Vanderbeek.

In the possession of Jacob Patchen it acquired a peculiar interest in the history of the village and city of Brooklyn, which subsequently grew up around it. It became necessary to run the present Market street through his property, for which he was offered a fair price, but refused to sell on any terms. Every persuasion, and all manner of strategy was used; but "old Leather Breeches," as he was styled, refused to budge. Finally he was put out by force, and his house removed to Jackson street (now Hudson street,) where it still remains, although considerably altered in appearance. Interminable law suits ensued, in which Patchen, although repeatedly beaten, obstinately appealed from court to court, until, at length, in the Court of Errors, he received a favorable verdict. It did not profit him much, as lawyers' fees had well nigh absorbed the large sum which was awarded him for damages. In short, this laughable suit of "Patchen *vs.* The Corporation," forms no inconsiderable part of Brooklyn History.

He was indeed a most curious man—vain, obstinate, pragmatic—with a reckless propensity to coin new words and phrases, and otherwise to “murder the king’s English,”—which made him the butt of ridicule and laughter—yet, withal, an honest, well-meaning man.

F The tradition concerning the connection of Red Hook Point with Governor’s Island, and the fordable nature of Buttermilk Channel, is completely dispelled by a view of Ratzer’s Map of New-York and a part of Long-Island, made in 1666-7. This careful and accurate government survey, made by Bernard Ratzer, an Engineer Officer in the British Army, at about the period which tradition ascribes to the passage of this channel, gives *three fathoms as the least depth!* The theory has been advanced by some, in support of this tradition, that the docks erected along the New-York shore since the Revolution, have gradually changed the current so as to sweep the intervening meadows, and form a fordable creek from a deep, wide, and navigable strait. No docks, however, until about 1741, were built east of Wall street, which could have had the effect of diverting the currents of the East River towards Buttermilk Channel. It is well known to residents on the Brooklyn, as well as on other shores of New-York Bay, that the loss by abrasion on its shores is caused mainly by the waves during storms and high tides, and very little, if any, by the ordinary currents.

G *Rycker’s Patent.* Subsequent examination of the original patent, together with other conclusive data, enables us to state that this land was *not* within the limits of the town of Brooklyn; but, that it was located in the territory then recently purchased from the Indians by the West India Company, and which afterwards formed the town of Bushwick. Abraham Rycken, or de Rycke, was the progenitor of the present Riker families in New-York, New-Jersey, and other parts of the United States, and probably emigrated to this country the same year in which he received this grant. It may be worthy of mention here, that Thompson, in his History of Long-Island, locates this grant at Gowanus, which, of course, is incorrect. It is by no means probable that he ever settled or improved his patent, for in 1642 he

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was a resident of New-Amsterdam, where most of his children were baptized, and where he had a house and lot on what is now Broad street. In 1654 he received a patent for land in Newtown, where he resided until his death, in 1689.

^H *Jan Manje's* patent extended from about the line of the present Atlantic street to a little beyond Congress street. *Andries Hudde's* patent extended from the north line of Manje's patent along the river to the present Joralemon street. *Claes Janse (von Naerden,* and called, in his neighbor's patent, *Claes Janse Ruyter,*) occupied the land now embraced between a line drawn a little southerly of Congress street, and a line drawn between Harrison and Degraw streets. It will be seen, therefore, that these three patents, subsequently united in the possession of Woortman, and by him sold, in 1706, to Remsen, comprised the whole territory afterwards occupied by the Remsen and Philip Livingston estates, Ralph Patchen, Cornelius Heeney, Parmenus Johnson, and others. This entire tract, extending from Joralemon to a little beyond Harrison street, and from Court street to the East River, now forms the most thickly settled, beautiful, and wealthy portion of the city of Brooklyn.

The statement that they "were located near the ferry" is erroneous, unless we accept the equally erroneous statement on page 29, in regard to the location of the "old ferry"—which will be noticed more at length in Note I.

^I Although all succeeding historians have repeated this statement of the first annalist of Brooklyn, concerning the location of the ancient ferry, there is certainly not a particle of evidence to sustain it. On the contrary, the map of the "Towne of Mannados, or New-Amsterdam, as it was in September, 1661," recently discovered by George H. Moore, Esq.—and which is the earliest map extant of that town—clearly locates the "passage way" to Long-Island, at or near the present Peck Slip. Dircksen, the first known ferryman, also owned a farm near the same place, and any one who reflects on the peculiar adaptation of the two opposing shores at this place, will be convinced that the locality we have named, and that only, was the place best suited to the exigencies of the row-boat navigation of that day.

As to Joralemon street originally being the Brooklyn terminus of the ferry, Furman's statement is equally erroneous. All facts preserved in history point positively to Fulton Ferry as the *original* landing-place on this side. The Joralemon Street Ferry was not established until 1774, by the Corporation of New-York, and was then known as "St. George's Ferry." It did not exist long, being discontinued in 1776, and the ferry house, together with a large distillery near it, were burnt during the war.

^J Providing, however, against a possible "jam" near the ferry—although, perhaps, scarcely anticipating the great thoroughfare which now exists at that locality—the law enacts that if a majority of the inhabitants of the town should "*adjudge that part of the road near to the ferry*" to be so narrow and inconvenient," they might cause the Sheriff to summon a jury of twelve to appraise the land necessary to be taken in the widening, and that said appraisement should be levied and collected upon the town, and paid to the owners. This, however, was never done, and the old lane continued to serve the economical town-folk of Brooklyn. Its appearance may be understood by a glance at Guy's Picture of Brooklyn, (in the Institute, Washington street,) which represents it at its passage at Front street, but so narrow as hardly to lead one to suppose, from the picture, that it was a street.

The Rapalje farm, afterwards confiscated on account of the toryism of its owner, and conveyed to C. & J. Sands, extended up the east side of Fulton street to the end, about where Sands street now enters, and there stood the "swinging-gate," and there began the four-foot road. On the remarkably accurate map, prepared in 1766-7, by Lieut. Ratzer, this road is laid down, with the buildings thereon, showing conclusively that Fulton street then was the same in use as before the widening in 1834.

^K The "white oak tree" here referred to, and elsewhere designated as "the white oak standing by the Indian foot-path, markt with three notches," was a large tree, with a decayed centre, which stood until some forty or fifty years ago, when it was finally prostrated by the wind. Within the remains of its stump, some twenty years since, Mr. Teunis G. Bergen, Supervisor of New-

Utrecht, and Martinus Bergen, Supervisor of the 8th Ward, placed a monument, which forms the most southerly angle of the bounds of the City of Brooklyn. At present, all vestiges of the old tree have disappeared.

^L This is an undoubted error—originating, we think, with Gen. Jeremiah Johnson. It is now definitely ascertained that Captain Hale was executed on an apple-tree in the Rutgers orchard, near the present intersection of East Broadway and Market streets, in New-York City.

^M Another error. The old Pierrepont mansion, which formerly stood on the line of the present Montague street, near the little iron foot-bridge which spans the carriage-way, was the headquarters of Washington during this important contest. It was a large and costly house, having four chimneys, and upon its roof a telegraph was arranged, by which communication was held with New-York City. It was here, also, (and not at the old Dutch church in Fulton Street, as has been erroneously stated,) that the Council of War was held which determined upon the retreat, and from which the orders for that movement were promulgated. This is on the authority of Col. Fish, the father of Gov. Hamilton Fish, and one of Washington's military family, who, in 1824, during Lafayette's visit to Brooklyn, called the remembrance of the distinguished visitor to the fact, and designated the very positions in the room occupied by the members of that council.

^N This, then the mansion of Philip Livingston, Esq., was appropriated by the British as a naval hospital, probably as a retaliatory measure, its owner being at that time a member of the Continental Congress. Attached to the house was an extensive garden, which the well known taste and abundant means of Mr. Livingston had made the finest in this part of America, and which—to their credit—was kept in good repair by the physicians and officers of the hospital. The mansion, however, although at that time, and for many years afterwards, the largest in town—proved not to be sufficiently extensive for the accommodation of the sick belonging to the large fleet then on this station. Other buildings were accordingly erected on the farm, (known as the Ralph Patchen property,) on the southerly side of the present Atlantic

street. The principal disease among the sick was the scurvy, and they were buried from these hospitals to the number of twelve or fifteen a day. For many years afterwards the remains of these poor fellows were, from time to time, disinterred by the caving of the brow of the hill all along that portion of the shore. Mr. William Furman (father of Gabriel Furman) used to relate that he saw ten or twelve buried *in one grave* from the British hospitals on the Livingston place.

On the banks of the River, a little east of the easterly line of Furman street, and between Pacific and Warren streets, as now laid out, was a knoll of land, where several hundred British soldiers and sailors were buried in regular rows. The heads of the westernmost row were exposed to the lashing of the waves of the river, by which means they were beateu off from the trunks; and one of Mr. Cornell's negro men subsequently made a considerable amount of money by selling the teeth, taken from these heads, to the dentists of New-York city. This same burial-knoll, thus enriched, afterwards became Cornell's asparagus-bed, where he raised an excellent quality of that vegetable for the New-York market.

° On the first Tuesday of April, 1784, was held the first Town meeting since April, 1776. Jacob Sharp, Esq. was chosen Town Clerk, and applied to Lefferts Lefferts, Esq., his predecessor in the office, for the Town records. Lefferts deposed, on oath, that they had been removed from his custody, during the war, by a person or persons to him unknown. It afterwards transpired that they had been removed by John Rapalje, a prominent citizen and Tory, who had been employed by Mr. Lefferts as a clerk, and therefore knew which of the records were most valuable. He came to the house, one day, and telling Mrs. Lefferts that he intended removing the papers to a safe place, went into the room used as an office, and there busied himself for some time, selecting what he pleased, packing the whole into a sack, and taking them away.—(*J. C. Brevoort, Esq., on authority of Lefferts Lefferts, son of Leffert Lefferts, the clerk in question.*)

These records and papers were taken to England by Rapalje, in October, 1776, and his large estates were confiscated, and after-

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wards became the property of J. & C. Sands. After his death, the papers fell into the possession of his grand-daughter, who married William Weldon, of Norwich, County of Norfolk, England.

William Weldon and his wife came to New-York about the year 1810, to recover the estates of John Rapalje, and employed D. B. Ogden and Aaron Burr as counsel, who advised them that the Act of Attainder, passed by the Legislature against Rapalje and others, barred their claim. Weldon and his wife brought over with them the lost Records of the Town of Brooklyn, and offered them to the town for a large sum, (according to some, \$10,000) but would not even allow them to be examined before delivery.

Although a *writ of replevin* might easily have secured them to the town again, the apathetic Dutchmen of that day were too indifferent to the value of these records, and they were allowed to return to England.—(*MSS. Note of Jeremiah Johnson.*)

P These fortifications were: (1) A half-moon shaped fort, on the edge of the Heights, between Orange and Clark Streets, garrisoned by Hessian troops, and having a battery of cannon overlooking the army. (2) A large, square fort at the junction of Pierrepont and Henry streets, by far the most thoroughly constructed and complete fortification erected by the British during their stay on Long-Island. The position was an exceedingly fine and commanding one, and old denizens of Brooklyn speak of having seen, at one time, between two and three thousand British troops engaged in its construction, besides large numbers of the people of the Island, who, with their teams, &c., were impressed into the work. This fort was 450 feet square, with ramparts rising about 40 or 50 feet above the bottom of the surrounding ditch, itself 20 feet in depth. At each angle of the fort was a bastion, on each of which was planted a button-wood tree, all of which afterwards attained a very great size. The barracks were very substantially constructed, and in front of the fort, on the present line of Fulton street, between Clark and Pierrepont streets, stood a row of small mud huts erected by the British army sutlers. This fortification was not completed in July, 1781,

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at which time it had only eighteen cannon mounted, but had two bomb-proof magazines, and was garrisoned by two hundred Brunswickers. At this time, also, the 54th Regiment were encamped at Ferry Hill, two miles from Brooklyn, while at Bedford were two hundred Grenadiers. (3) Cobble Hill (or Ponkiesburgh) Fort, near intersection of present Atlantic and Court streets, which had been formerly used by the Americans, was in process of repair, and was occupied by two companies. It commanded the large fort at Brooklyn, before mentioned, but was, at this time, made lower, for fear it might fall into the hands of the Continentals. (4) In April, 1782, an intrenchment was commenced on Long-Island, at the Wallabout, extending from the hill of Rem. A. Remsen, along the high land of John Rapalje (crossing Sands street near Jay, and thence over the highest land at Washington street,) across the Jamaica road (Fulton street) to the large fort on the corner of Heury and Pierrepont streets. Its length was two and a half miles.

Q Situated near the junction of Main and Fulton streets. Mr. Joseph Fox, afterwards a store-keeper in Brooklyn, was one of the principals or masters of this Wagon Department.

R. This "*Corporation House*" stood in Fulton street, just below Front, and cornerwise (or angling) towards Fulton, in such a way that it left but $35\frac{1}{2}$ feet for the entire width of the street, between it and the houses on the opposite side. It was, as our author describes it, "a large, gloomy, old-fashioned stone edifice," quite dark inside, with a broad, heavy stair-case, and was kept, about the beginning of the present century, as a tavern, by Benjamin Smith. He was an old and much respected citizen, and, after the fire which destroyed the building, removed his stand to a stone building on the opposite side of Fulton street. Just above, and adjoining the garden of the old "*Corporation House*," and between it and the corner of Front street, stood the engine house of Fire Engine No. 1, the first in Brooklyn.

S. JOHN GARRISON, as a Judge of the Common Pleas, or Justice of the Peace, was for many years identified with the interests of the earlier town of Brooklyn. Indeed, he (in connection with old Squire Nichols) dispensed nearly all the justice that was

needed to keep the Brooklynites straight, in those primitive days; and, though his legal attainments were not very extensive, yet his strong common-sense, his shrewdness in judging character, and his straightforward way of getting at the *justice*, if not the *law* of the cases brought before him, rendered him, in the opinion of all who knew him, one of the best Justices which Brooklyn ever had. He was by trade a butcher; in religion, a staunch Methodist; in politics, a violent democrat of the old school, and in character one of the kindest and purest hearted of men. In person, he was corpulent, to discomfort; and many pleasant stories are yet told of his queer ways and sayings.

T. WILLIAM FURMAN was the father of our author, and lived on the spot now occupied by the Brooklyn City R. R. Company, corner of Fulton street and Furman street, named after him. His biography will be found on page vi. of the biography of his son, prefixed to this reprint.

U TEUNIS JORALEMON, born about 1761, came to Brooklyn from Flatbush, where he had been a harness-maker. He grew rich by the rise of real estate in the rapidly growing town to which he had removed, and was much esteemed as an estimable citizen.

V NOAH WATERBURY, whose enterprise earned for him the appellation of the "Father of Williamsburg," was born at Groton Falls, Ct., and was the son of Phineas and Elizabeth (Lounsberg) Waterbury. In 1789, at the age of 15 years, he came to Brooklyn, where he learned the trade of a shoemaker. At the close of his apprenticeship, being then 21 years old, in connection with Henry Stanton, he took the Catherine St. Ferry, previously run by Hunt & Furman, and after carrying it on for some time, entered into the lumber trade, and subsequently established a ropè-walk, in both of which ventures, Stanton was his partner. In May, 1819, he removed to Williamsburgh, where he purchased from Gen. Jeremiah Johnson about one-half an acre of land at the foot of South Second Street, on which he erected (with Jordan Coles) a distillery. He afterwards added eight acres of land adjoining, by purchase from Johnson, and laid it out in city lots. Gradually he got into the real estate business—frequently loaned

money to the village, at times of its greatest financial distress—originated the City Bank, of which he became the first President, was the first President of the Board of Trustees, in 1827, and in many ways promoted the welfare of the village.

^W A full biographical sketch of Joshua Sands and his brother, Comfort, and also an account of the Sands family, will be found in "*Thompson's History of Long Island*," ii, 463-469.

^X JOHN DOUGHTY was a butcher, and a most estimable man, whose whole life was identified with the interests of the town of Brooklyn. He was an old school democrat, and a member of the Episcopal Church. He figured prominently in the early history of the Brooklyn Fire Department; was the founder of the "Fire Bucket System" of the town; and was for many years a Trustee and Clerk of the Board.

^Y JOHANNES THEODORUS POLHEMUS belonged to a family long distinguished among officers of state and men of letters, in the Netherlands. Anciently, some of its members enjoyed celebrity in the cities of Antwerp and Ghent, in the first of which Eleazer Polhemus, a learned jurist, held the office of Burgomaster as early as 1310. Dominie Polhemus came to New Amsterdam in 1654, from Itamarca, in Brazil, where he had been stationed as a missionary. He immediately accepted a call from Flatbush, and took up his actual residence there, where, in 1662, he received a patent for a part of the premises owned by the late Jeremiah Lott, Esq. His widow, whose maiden name was Catherine Van Werven, survived him several years; and his children, one of whom, at least, was born in Brazil, occupied respectable and prominent positions in life. Dominie Polhemus was the progenitor of the *entire* Polhemus family in America. See Riker's *Newtown*, pp. 348-350, for an interesting genealogy of the same.

^Z HENRICUS SELVINS, esteemed "the most distinguished of the ministers who came from Holland," came to this country in March, 1660, in consequence of a special call made by the Church at Brooklyn, to the Classis at Amsterdam, and was installed over that Church on the 3d of September, of the same year. The members of his church, residents of the vicinity, numbered only 27 persons, including an elder and two deacons—

the population of the entire village being only 134 persons, in 31 families—and the bounds of the new Dominie's charge embraced the settlements at "the Ferry," the "Waal-boght," and the "Gujanes." A church edifice was shortly after erected, and the people, being unable to assume the entire expense of his support, petitioned the Council for assistance. Stuyvesant agreed personally to contribute 250 guilders, if Selyns would preach on Sabbath afternoons at his "Bouwery," on Manhattan Island, to which the Dominie consented. Under his able ministrations, the Church in Brooklyn increased so that, in 1661, it numbered 52 communicants, many of whom had been admitted on certificate from New Amsterdam, and from churches in the Fatherland. As late, however, as May, 1662, Mr. Selyns was not an actual resident of Brooklyn; and, in 1664, he yielded to the urgent solicitations of his aged father in Holland, and with the permission of the Directors of the West India Company, was most tenderly and respectfully dismissed from his church, on the 17th of July, 1664, and sailed for the Fatherland on the 23d of the same month. He subsequently returned to this country, and became the pastor (seventh in regular succession) of the Collegiate Dutch Reformed Church, in the City of New Amsterdam, now New York. The following brief sketch of his subsequent career is taken from the Rev. Dr. De Witt's Memorial Volume of the Dutch Reformed Church of New-York. (Note D. p. 69.) After mentioning that he occupied "a prominent place" in Holland, after his return in 1664, De Witt says: "In 1670, on the death of Megapolensis, and the sickness and debility of Drisius, inducing a pressing want of ministerial service, a call was made upon Selyns with more than common urgency. The impressions he had left by his previous ministrations were deep and strong. He, however, declined. After the death of Dominie Van Nieuwenhuysen, in 1681, the Church at once directed a renewed and strongly enforced appeal, to which he favorably responded, and became sole pastor of the Church from 1682 to 1689, when he received a colleague, and died in 1701. There is sufficient evidence remaining to show his systematic, industrious, and energetic discharge of his ministerial and pastoral duties, and that he gave a happy direction to the interests of the Church. He appears to have acquired much

literary cultivation. He was in correspondence with eminent divines in Holland, and with ministers in Boston, in New-England, the Mathers and others. There is prefixed to Cotton Mather's "*Magnalia Americana*," a Latin congratulatory poem of some length, signed "Henricus Selyns, Ecclesiastes *Neo Eboracensis*." At the publication of John Eliot's celebrated Indian Bible, he procured it and sent it to the Classis of Amsterdam. It could be wished that more materials had survived to elucidate his character and ministry."

AA CHARLES DE BEVOISE was a highly respectable and well educated French Protestant, from Leyden, in Holland, and arrived at New-Amsterdam in the ship Otter, February 7, 1659, accompanied by his wife and three children. His literary merits, and acquaintance with the Dutch language, soon acquired for him the situation of a teacher; but in 1671, he became "chorister, reader, and schoolmaster" for the people of Brooklyn, at a salary of 25 guilders, and free house rent. Afterwards, he was Public Secretary, or Town Clerk, which office he held until 1669. He was the ancestor of the large and respectable family of his name on Long-Island.

BB This Church is described in *Judge Furman's MSS. Notes* (now in the Library of the Long-Island Historical Society), as a large, square edifice, very dark and gloomy inside, so that, in summer, one could not see to read in it after four o'clock in the afternoon, by reason of its small windows. These were six or eight feet above the floor, and filled with stained glass lights from Holland, representing vines loaded with flowers. The edifice, which had a square roof, with a cupola, and a small, sharp-toned bell, brought from Holland, stood exactly in the centre of the highway, the road branching off on each side; and a miserable road it was, filled with mud-holes and large rocks.

CC So named in compliment to Ann, the wife of Joshua Sands, Esq., and mother of Capt. Joshua R. Sands, formerly of the U. S. Navy, and William Sands, now of this city. She was the daughter of Dr. Richard Ayscough, a surgeon in the British army, and her mother was a Langdon. She was born in New-York city, in 1761, and was married in 1779, living with her husband until his

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death, in 1835—a period of fifty-six years. Her husband, a prominent merchant and a large land owner in Brooklyn, died at the age of 77, respected and lamented by all who knew him. Mrs. Sands survived him for a number of years, dying July 17th, 1851, at the age of 90 years. She was the first directress of the “Loisian School,” the first public school established in Brooklyn, and was foremost in every good word and work. Remarkable for genuine piety and great and untiring benevolence, she exercised an influence on society which has not yet ceased to be felt, and was most appropriately recognized in naming after her the First Episcopal Church of Brooklyn.

^{DD} As early as 1784, the Methodist Itinerants began to visit Brooklyn, and preach occasionally in private houses. It was not, however, till 1793, that the First Methodist Church, a small frame building, was erected on the site of the present Sands Street Church. This house was dedicated by the Rev. Joseph Totten, on the first of June, 1794, the Society having been incorporated on the 19th of May previous.

In 1797, Brooklyn was formed into a separate charge, with a membership of 23 whites, and 27 colored. Rev. Joseph Totten was the first regularly stationed minister. He was a man of deep piety and burning zeal, a native of Hempstead, L. I., and died in Philadelphia, in 1818, in the 60th year of his age.

The original church edifice was enlarged in 1810, and rebuilt in 1844, and is a substantial brick edifice, 80 by 60 feet, costing \$10,500,

^{EE} **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.**—The ground upon which “The Plymouth Church” now stands, comprising seven lots, running through from Cranberry to Orange Streets, was purchased in 1822, by John and Jacob M. Hicks, for the erection of an edifice for the use of “The First Presbyterian Church.” At the time, the population of Brooklyn was less than ten thousand, and the enterprise was regarded by cautious men as hazardous; the Church being built in what was then cultivated fields, and far out from the settled portion of the village, though now in the densest part of Brooklyn Heights. It was organized, however, with ten members, by the Presbytery of New-York, on the 10th of March,

1822, and was incorporated on the 13th of the same month. The high personal character of its first Trustees, gave to the new enterprise a dignity and prominence which assured its success, and which has marked its subsequent career in a most eminent degree. The new organization was admitted to connection with the Presbytery of New-York on the 10th of April, 1822, and measures were immediately taken for the erection of a substantial church edifice. Its corner-stone was laid on the 15th of April, 1822, and it was completed before the close of the same year. This building, which was considered in those days as "a very handsome brick building, something in the Gothic style," was 72 feet in length; and was afterwards enlarged by the addition of 18 feet, making it 90 feet in depth, by 55 feet in width. A Lecture Room, including a Sabbath-School Room and Study, was attached to the rear of the Church, fronting upon Orange street, in 1831.

The first pastor was the Rev. Joseph Sanford, who was installed on the 16th of October, 1823, continued until his dismissal, January 11, 1829, and removed to Philadelphia, where he died at the age of 35 years, December 25, 1836. His remains, "by request of the people" of this congregation, were removed hither from Philadelphia, and now rest in the ministers' vault beneath the church edifice, with those of his first wife, with whom he was permitted to live only a few months, and suitable inscriptions to their memory are engraven upon two marble tablets, inserted—under cover—under the south portico. He was succeeded by the Rev. Daniel Lynn Carroll (now the Rev. *Dr.* Daniel L. Carroll), previously pastor of a church in Litchfield, Conn., who was installed March 1829, and was dismissed July 9, 1835. After Mr. Carroll's departure, the pulpit remained vacant nearly two years, until on the 8th of May, 1837, the Rev. Samuel Thomson Cox, D.D. was installed as third pastor of this Church. In November, 1838, the division of the Synod of New-York, was followed by a corresponding division of the membership of this church. About forty families, including three elders and nearly one hundred members, claiming to be the legitimate representatives of the original founders of the church, in their religious opinions and sentiments, preferred to retain their connection with

the Presbytery of New-York, which remained attached to the Old School Synod and General Assembly—and therefore asserting themselves to be *the* “First Presbyterian Church of Brooklyn,”—withdrew from Dr. Cox’s charge.

The pastor, seven elders, and about five hundred and fifty members, acknowledging the jurisdiction of the “Presbytery of Brooklyn,” continued to pursue the even tenor of their way. On the 28th of July, 1846, the corner-stone of the present elegant house of worship (in Henry Street, near Clark) occupied by the congregation, was laid. The edifice was first opened for divine worship on the 6th of June, 1847. The old church in Cranberry Street had been sold in June, 1846, for the sum of \$20,000, to parties who subsequently conveyed it to the “Plymouth Church.”

Dr. Cox’s farewell sermon was preached on the 16th of April, 1854, and a call having been extended, in December, 1854, to the Rev. William Hogarth, of Geneva, N. Y., and accepted by him, he was installed as the fourth pastor of this church, on the 15th of March, 1855.

On the 20th of March, 1860, the Rev. Charles S. Robinson, formerly settled in Park Presbyterian Church of Troy, N. Y., was installed.

FF ST. JAMES ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH.—In the year 1821, there were a few Catholic families in Brooklyn, who were obliged to cross the East River to enjoy the privileges of worship. The inconveniences attending this, however, induced them to make an effort to secure a place of worship nearer home. The late Cornelius Heeney offered, as a free gift, an acre of land on the corner of Court and Congress streets, for the purposes of a church; but its position being at that time so far distant from the centre and business portion of the city, the offer was respectfully declined, and property was secured on the corner of Chapel and Jay streets, and a substantial edifice, about 78 by 52 feet, was erected thereon. In 1846, this received an addition of about 32 by 84 feet, at right angles with the main building, which, with the further addition of a vestry, gives the Church the form of a cross. St. James Church has not only enjoyed prosperity herself, but has been the parent of many other flourishing churches of the same denomination, in this rapidly growing city. Among

those who are entitled to mention as the founders of this church, may be named S. G. Wise, Q. M. Sullivan, Peter Turner, William Purcell, Charles Brady, James Rose, G. McClasky, and others.

GG Main Street, now Catherine Street.

HH The "APPRENTICES' LIBRARY ASSOCIATION" became, in 1843, by act of Legislature, the "Brooklyn Institute," and in 1862, received an enlarged Act of Incorporation, under the provisions of which it continues its career of usefulness. It was endowed by Augustus Graham, at his death, with a sum of \$5000, to be applied to the maintenance of a course of Free Lectures, upon Mechanics, Natural Philosophy, and Science, for the Apprentices of the City of Brooklyn; also, another \$5000, one half of the income of which was to be applied to the support of a School of Design, and the other half to the purchase of a Specimen of the Fine Arts, by a native artist, to be kept in the Institution; also, another \$5000, the income of which is to be used for the purchase of specimens of Natural History, to Lectures upon that subject, and to the support and benefit of the Natural History Department of the Institute. An additional sum of \$12,000 was also given by Mr. Graham, for the endowment of an Annual Course of Sunday Evening Lectures, on the power, wisdom and goodness of God, as manifested in His works.

Previously to this, Mr. Graham had given to the Association the fine granite building in Washington Street, now occupied by them.

II Although Furman gives the title of this paper as *The Courier and New-York and Long-Island Advertiser*, the earlier numbers of it, at least, were simply issued as the *Long-Island Courier*. We have never been able to discover but *one copy* of this paper, or rather one and half of another, which is bound up with a file of other Island papers, now in possession of the Long-Island Historical Society. These are dated October 16, and 20, 1803, and bear the motto, "Columbia, united, shall to glory arise." It was then published on Wednesday mornings, and, unlike papers of the present day, contained no local items. The printing office was then on the corner of Front and Old Ferry street, as Fulton street was then called. Of Mr. Kirk we know but little; he was,

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for his time, a good printer, and printed many books for New-York publishers—was always foremost in all public enterprises, and much respected by his cotemporaries.

^{JJ} ALDEN SPOONER, than whom no one was ever more fully or honorably identified with the highest interests and prosperity of Brooklyn, was born at Westminster, Vt., January 23, 1783. Having learned the printing art with his relative, Samuel Green, the well known printer of New London, Ct., he went to Sag Harbor, L. I., where, on the 20th of February, 1804, he assumed the charge of the *Suffolk County Herald*, then in the thirteenth year of its existence, and changing its name to that of the *Suffolk County Gazette*, continued its publication until 1811, when he was obliged to abandon it. Moving to Brooklyn, which to his far-seeing eye, already gave promise of its future growth, he purchased the *Long-Island Star* from Mr. Kirk, and with this paper his whole subsequent life was honorably identified. He afterwards conducted for a time the *New-York Columbian*, a daily, and with that zeal for public works which always characterized him, was one of the earliest advocates of the Erie Canal, and, in all respects, a great admirer and firm friend of its noble originator, De Witt Clinton. In all that pertained to the welfare of Brooklyn, he was ever foremost and active. He was influential in procuring the Village Charter, in 1816, and, also, in promoting its incorporation as a city, in 1834.

He was one of the founders and trustees of the Brooklyn Apprentices' Library, whose useful objects always continued to enlist his sympathies and labors until his death.

He held respectively the military appointments of Second Lieutenant in the Fourth Regiment of the Fourth Brigade of N. Y. S. Artillery, in 1810; Quarter Master of the 13th Regiment, N. Y. S. Artillery, in 1819; Captain of a company in the 13th Regiment, N. Y. S. Artillery, in 1813, and Colonel of the 13th Regiment, N. Y. S. Artillery, in 1826. In a note appended to this last commission, Brigadier-General Spicer writes, "in the first printed order, suitable mention shall be made of your long and faithful services."

He was one of the founders of the Lyceum of Natural His-

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tory, and of the Female Seminary of Brooklyn, and the noble free school system of our city is deeply indebted to his ardent championship of the cause of popular education. "It was his unfaltering energy and perseverance that secured to the city the Fort Green property, as a public Park. It was not his fault that the entire of the beautiful Heights was not laid out as a park, to be free to the inhabitants as a place of resort and recreation forever. The old man wrote for it, talked for it, almost begged for it—all in vain. Utilitarianism was too strong for him, and the Heights are now covered with unsightly piles of brick and mortar." At an age when he might reasonably have sought for retirement and repose, he was yet active in works of public utility. For the last two years of his life he was earnestly engaged in organizing a company for lighting Brooklyn with gas, and on its incorporation, was unanimously chosen its President. Indeed, very many of the most important works in this City, and on Long-Island, owe their existence to the foresight and active instrumentality of Alden Spooner. There is ample proof, both in the files of the Star, and among living witnesses, of the many objects of vital importance to the public welfare which his mind conceived, and his zealous and constant effort aided in perfecting. In all these enterprises there was a perfect lack of the slightest selfish motive. He never laid claim to honors, but seemed perfectly contented with the good he accomplished, for its own sake. "Quietly and unostentatiously he sought only for the best means of adding to the intelligence, the comfort, and the security of the community in which he lived." His life realized the ideal of a *model citizen*, whose place was not easily filled.

In private life, "a simplicity, cheerfulness, and genuine kindness endeared him to every one." His integrity was spotless. He was liberal to the utmost extent of self-sacrifice, and foremost in acts of benevolence. A New England man, and tracing his descent from John Alden, of the Mayflower, he yet held to no rigor of creed, but was tolerant of all denominations, and in charity with all men. As a politician, he endeavored to divest partisanship of its bitterness and illiberality; as an editor, he was plain spoken, yet eminently courteous.

Death found him in his office, while reading a newspaper, and a

few short hours of pain closed his mortal career, on the 24th of November, 1848, in the sixty-fifth year of his age—being then, with the exception of Thomas Ritchie, of the Washington Union, the oldest editor in the United States.

Col. Spooner was twice married. First, to Rebecca Jermain, daughter of John Jermain, of Sag Harbor, Suffolk Co., Long-Island; second, to Mary Ann, daughter of Prosper Wetmore, of New-York.

KK GEORGE L. BIRCH was born in Limerick, Ireland, on the 15th of August, 1787, and came to this country in 1798, with his parents, who settled first in Providence, R. I., then in Brooklyn. After completing his education, he was bound apprentice to a shipping merchant of New-York; afterwards becoming a book keeper for a large distiller, whose employ he left to become first clerk in the Columbian Insurance Company. At the dissolution of this Company, he became the cashier and business manager of the *National Advocate*, a leading Democratic newspaper, edited by the late M. M. Noah, with whom he afterwards started a printing office in partnership. Shortly after, he became printer to the Common Council and to the Custom House, both of which positions he held until 1828. In 1819, we find him an active member of the King's County Agricultural and Domestic Manufacturing Society, and on the 17th of March, 1821, he issued the first number of the LONG ISLAND PATRIOT, a weekly family newspaper. In October, of the same year, he joined the Fire Department, with which, as foreman of Engine No. 2, he was identified for a long period. On the 31st of December, 1821, he received the appointment of Post-Master of Brooklyn, which office he occupied for four years, being succeeded by Thomas Kirk. In 1822, he established a monthly, the *Minerva*, in New-York, and during this year, at his suggestion, a branch of the "Columbian Order, or Tammany Society," was established in Brooklyn; and he was also largely instrumental in the organization of the "Erin Fraternal Association," the "Apprentices' Library," and various other valuable institutions, which have greatly contributed to the welfare of Brooklyn. In 1829, Mr. Birch, having received an appointment in the Custom House, sold out the *Patriot*. In 1843, he became the Custodian and Librarian of the U. S. Naval

Lyceum at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, which position he retained until his death, which occurred on the 27th of July, 1864. In all his relations of life he was respected and beloved, and his life, so clearly identified with the early growth and the best interests of Brooklyn, deserves a more careful tribute than these hastily penned lines.

LL The expression in the Council Records "*the first-born Christian daughter in New-Netherland*," has given rise to the statement that this Sarah Rapalje was the first child born in the town of New-Amsterdam (New York); and this, in spite of Mr. Riker's admirable expose of the error, in a paper read before the New-York Historical Society, in May, 1857, still continues to be reiterated by all the careless "finger end historians" who have occasion to write about the first settlement of New-York and Brooklyn. It *ought* to be sufficient to call attention to the deposition of her own mother, Catalytie Trieo Rapalje, (New-York Documentary History, iii. 50, and other records,) which shows that she was *born at Albany*, during the residence of her parents at that place, and that they *did not settle at the Wallabout till more than twenty five years after!* Sarah herself joined the Church at Brooklyn, in 1661, *by letter from the Church in New-Amsterdam!*

MM Another error, to which the old Dutch families of Long-Island seem disposed to hold on, even though disproved over and over again. For Rapalje's purchase at the Wallabout in 1637, is *antedated by that of Bentyn and Bennet, at Gowanus, in 1636*; and, moreover, the presumptive evidence is, that *Bennet* entered *almost immediately* upon the occupation and improvement of his land, whereas it is well ascertained that Rapalje did not remove his residence from New-Amsterdam to the Wallabout until after 1650.

NN The Court House erected in 1758 was quite small, and near it was a jail; and one of these buildings was burned down shortly after. In a new building, two stories high, which was erected soon after, provision was made for both courts and jail. Its second story, which was the court-room, was converted into a ball-room, by the British officers, during the Revolutionary war.

The building spoken of by our author as built in 1792, was a very respectable frame building, with a small cupola, and was destroyed by fire on the 30th of November, 1832, after which time Flatbush ceased to be the County town, and the courts and all judicial business were removed to Brooklyn. Here they were held in the City Hall until, the capacity of this building having become inadequate even to accommodate the business of the city, the question began to be agitated, of building a new Court House. This was in September, 1852, and on May 20th, 1862, nearly ten years after, the corner stone was laid of the magnificent marble structure which now forms the finest architectural monument of our city, situated on Fulton street, on the site of the old "Military Garden."

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